

HOME NEWS

London water action expected as pay deal anger spreads

By David Felton and Ronald Kershaw

More workers in the water and sewerage industry yesterday expressed dissatisfaction with the pay deal they are being urged to accept. Unofficial strikes spread to Yorkshire and there were strong indications that disruption could occur in the London area next week.

Union negotiators were being strongly criticised for recommending the offer, which is worth about 13 per cent, after several union delegate conferences indicated they would not accept less than 15 per cent. A meeting of British Water Authority stewards in the Thames Water Authority is expected to call for rejection and is likely to support calls for unofficial action, which would probably start with a work-to-rule.

Mr Robert Hudson, chairman of the General and Municipal Workers Union London regional water conference, said last night: "I am convinced that by the end of next week industrial action in some form will have started in the Thames area."

Earlier yesterday about 100 workers went on strike at the Newcastle and Gateshead water company in a region that has carried the brunt of unofficial action so far. A further 50 workers at the Yorkshire Water Authority in Hull walked out, bringing the total on unofficial strike to more than 650 men in the North of England.

Burst water pipes have affected the Tyne and North Shields area and last night three farms and 107 houses had no piped water supply. Standpipes and water bowers were pressed into use. The water authority said sewage works affected by the strike were being bypassed and 10 per cent more sewage was being pumped into the Tyne. Drinking water might be slightly discoloured and taste of chlorine but was safe to drink.

Workers in West Wales and Gwent are operating a work-to-rule. Several areas of Lancashire are affected by the 200

men on strike there, but pickets at other depots and plants apparently failed to persuade workers to join them.

Mr Hudson said that he had heard from workers in other areas, particularly Birmingham, the West Midlands, Yorkshire and East Anglia that they were unhappy with the £20.3m offer and were prepared to act.

For many workers the offer would mean an increase of only 13p a week over the previous offer because overtime was being reduced and many workers earned low bonuses. Mr Edmund Newall, chief negotiator for the four unions representing the industry's 32,000 manual workers, said last night that he did not expect industrial action to spread to the whole country.

Workers were warned by Mr Newall that voting for rejection at meetings over the next two weeks would be taken as a vote for a strike because there could be no further negotiations.

Other developments in the public sector pay field yesterday included: Heathrow strike threat: Air traffic controllers at Heathrow Airport have indicated their willingness to join the one-day national strike called by Civil Service unions for March 9. The airport would then be closed for 24 hours with senior managers operating a stand-by service for emergencies. Hospital workers' offer: Leaders of 250,000 hospital ancillary workers may be offered a 15-month deal in order to increase the present 6 per cent pay offer to about 7.1 per cent which would give them parity with the increase awarded to local authority manual workers.

Nurses' 15 per cent claim: A further 15 per cent claim for the Government for National Health Service pay awards came from leaders of 450,000 nurses and midwives who submitted a 15 per cent claim linked to a reduction in the working week to 35 hours from the present 37½ hours and a new minimum wage of £32, an increase of £35 a week.

Energy unions advised to emulate miners

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Energy union leaders were yesterday encouraged by the miners to emulate their militant example and put pressure on the Government to adopt policies more acceptable to the TUC.

At a TUC consultative conference on energy, Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, said: "I hope our action in protecting jobs may prompt an upsurge in trade union enthusiasm for obtaining a change in Government direction."

"There is a need for a start

to be made by somebody somewhere in this Western world towards getting a change in economic policy, the miners have to make that start in the trade union movement."

His invitation to other unions to follow the lead set by the miners was backed by Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, who expressed surprise that the miners had failed to grasp that a crisis was building in the coal industry.

The TUC had warned Secretary of State for Energy, Mr David Howell, last October that unless ministers protected the coal industry there would be unrest.

Pay offer to 47,000 university staff

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

The Government has approved a pay rise for 47,000 university teachers and administrative staff, backdated to October 1, 1980, which is the equivalent of a 6.8 per cent increase over one year.

The settlement, which was approved yesterday by the executive of the Association of University Teachers, still has to be ratified by the union's full council. It will cover an 18-month period from October, 1980, to April, 1982.

Under the settlement university dons, librarians, computer staff and administrators will get a 7 per cent increase backdated to October 1, 1980, and a further 3 per cent from tomorrow, with no further increase until April 1, 1982.

The university teachers had originally asked for an 18 per cent increase over the year from October, 1980, but later reduced that claim to 15 per cent. The university employers' original offer of 10 per cent was later raised to 12 per cent.

Negotiations reached a stalemate at the point, and the independent chairman of Committees A, the preliminary negotiating committee on university teachers' pay, recommended last October to the Government that the dons should receive 13 per cent. The Government stalled, however, waiting to see how its then relatively new 6 per cent pay policy would work out.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals said last night that it deplored the deterioration in the position of academics relative to compar-

General Synod refuses to discuss condemnatory motions, preferring to leave debate open

Homosexuality best seen as a handicap, Dr Runcie says

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The General Synod deliberately refused yesterday to make a condemnatory judgment on homosexuality, preferring to leave the debate in the Church of England open.

By a considerable majority the synod voted not to debate motions that conveyed disapproval of homosexual relationships. Instead there was a general discussion of the issues and a report summarizing them was accepted.

It was generally agreed to be a calm and well-informed debate, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, offered guidance to the church on how to handle the controversy.

He hoped the report would be used to combat "the silly

insinuations and innuendos, the casual contempt and twisting mockery of homosexuality which so often passes for discussion of the subject even, alas, in church circles."

"He was not sure that public attitudes were improving; they might even have deteriorated since the nineteenth century."

"Once we were encouraged by Freud to define people in terms of the sexual feelings the danger was there of tyrannically imposing the categories 'heterosexual' and 'homosexual' on a range of relationships and feelings which cannot be categorized in such a banal and crude way," he said.

"One of the results has been the eclipse of friendship as a profound spiritual relationship which inspired some of the greatest art and writing in the ancient world."

He said he "could not but believe" that those who were obsessive about so-called "gay rights" contributed to that unhealthy atmosphere.

On the ordination of homosexual men, he offered the rule of thumb test that if a man was so obsessive a campaigner on the subject that it made his ministry unavailable to most church people, he could see no justification in ordaining him.

He inclined away from treating homosexuality simply as a sin or a sickness. He preferred to see it as a handicap, a state in which people had to cope with limitations and hardships and in which the fulfilment of heterosexual love and marriage was denied.

"We are learning to treat the handicapped not with pity but with deep respect and an awareness that often through

their handicaps they can obtain a degree of self-giving and compassion which are denied to those not similarly afflicted."

But he could not endorse the view that homosexuality was a minority but valid alternative to the heterosexual way followed by the majority.

The debate was remarkable for the interventions of two homosexual clergy members of the synod, the Rev Peter Elers, Vicar of Thaxted, Essex, and the Rev Robert Lewis, Rector of Thirsk, North Yorkshire.

Mr Lewis said after the debate that it was the first public occasion on which he had declared himself to be homosexual. He thought the church should withdraw from involving itself in this area, he told the synod.

Mr Elers said: "Let us stop talking about the problem of

homosexuality or the predicament of homosexuality. Let us recognize where the problem lies—in the dislike and the distaste felt by many heterosexuals for homosexuals, a problem we have come to call homophobia."

Mr Raymond Johnston, a synod member and director of the Festival of Light, wanted a clear line laid down, as the church had a duty to bear witness on moral issues.

"It is not possible to produce any definition of sin that does not include in the definition male homosexual pseudo-copulation," he said.

When the first of a series of motions concerning the moral unacceptability of homosexual behaviour was proposed, the synod voted to move to next business.



Sister Marion Eva chairing the homosexuality debate yesterday with (left) Mr Derek Pattinson, secretary-general, and Mr Brian Hanson, legal adviser.

MP to speak at 'gay' rally today

From Our Correspondent, Manchester

A member of Parliament will speak publicly at a homosexuals' rally in Manchester today.

Mr George Morton, Labour MP for Moss Side, Manchester, will support the rally, which is expected to attract 300 people and will begin with a march through the city in protest against an alleged increase in the number of attacks on homosexuals.

Mr Morton, aged 41, said yesterday: "I shall not be on the march because of other commitments, but I shall be along later in the day to speak."

"I shall be expressing my concern as an MP about the problems of minorities in general. I have a particular concern with the problems of 'gay' people, but I am not trying to press that as the main issue."

Ulster 'loyalists' to revive workers' council that led strike of 1974

From Christopher Thomas, Belfast

The growing insecurity felt by Ulster "loyalists" about their constitutional future has prompted an attempt to revive the Ulster Workers' Council, which in 1974 brought down the power-sharing executive.

The decision was taken principally by shop stewards representing "loyalist" workers at a private meeting on Wednesday. A 21-member committee was elected, chaired by Mr Harold Murray, a Belfast shipworker who headed the council in its heyday.

Changed circumstances make the organization much less of a threat than in 1974, or during the abortive "loyalist" strike in 1977, in which the Rev Ian Paisley played a leading role. There is, for example, no indication that the organization has the support of the Ulster Defence Association, whose paramilitary activities ensured the effectiveness of the 1974 stoppage.

Additionally, there is no suggestion that the Government will attempt, during the present Parliament, to revive the idea of a power-sharing executive.

The immediate aim of the workers' council will be to campaign against mounting redundancies in areas such as East Antrim, which has historically enjoyed near full employment. It is expected to press for the establishment of a trade

union movement in Northern Ireland which is directly connected with the TUC. At present most trade unionists in Ulster are affiliated to the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, which is based in Dublin.

The Dublin summit last December between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Charles Haughey, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, will play a part in the council's forthcoming campaign, details of which are to be announced next week. The launching of another strike is not seriously contemplated.

The organization feels that there has been no effective Northern Ireland voice in the deliberations between Westminster and Dublin and will seek to publicize what it regards as the growing dangers resulting from a possible secret deal. Mr Paisley said yesterday that he had received no approach from the council.

Scottish arms claim: The Royal Ulster Constabulary received a transcript yesterday of an Ulster Television programme in which a member of the Ulster Defence Association in Scotland said that guns and explosives had been smuggled to Northern Ireland.

The man, who was not named and who appeared in silhouette, said on the programme, "Counterpoint, on Thursday, the last shipment was on Thursday last week. It consisted of seven rifles, two machine guns and 10lb of explosives. He described himself as the commander of the Scottish battalion of the association.

The arms came mostly from sympathisers in England, he said. The weapons had been sent from Scotland "because it is easier to get them to Ireland from here than it is down there in England."

He added: "We have trained with weapons here in Scotland and we are keeping some for ourselves because we are expecting trouble. They (the IRA) have got guns and we need them so we can come out and defend ourselves."

Mr Andrew Tyrrie, chairman of the Ulster Defence Association, said in Belfast that by allowing an H block protest march in Glasgow earlier this month, the Scottish police had created a monster that could easily "rampage out of control."

He said that further provocation would lead to greater "loyalist" counter activity. From riot to riot, prisoners at the Magilligan Jail, Londonderry, smashed furniture and light fittings early yesterday. Shooting: A soldier was shot in the chest in Crossmaglen, South Armagh, yesterday while on foot patrol. His condition was not serious.

Bomb wrecks shops: Several shops were wrecked when a van bomb exploded in Limsavay, Londonderry, last night (the Press Association reports). A number of people suffered minor injuries.

Snowstorms and gales sweep West

Snow and gale-force winds lashed Wales and the West Country yesterday. Forecasters last night predicted heavy falls and strong winds in the North today.

In parts of Devon winds of 70 mph were recorded and Torquay seafront was closed to traffic when huge waves swamped the road.

The ferry Scillonian was unable to leave Penzance for its daily trip to the Isle of Scilly, and Automobile Association headquarters at Exeter was busy dealing with breakdowns caused by flooding.

Heavy snow and high winds created blizzard conditions in mid-Wales. The mountain road at Llangynidr and the B4560 near by were blocked, and snowploughs were active. High winds brought down power lines in north Wales.

Airport bomb hoaxer jailed

Regional Howard Yeates, aged 24, of Merston Crescent, Euyton, Merseyside, was found guilty at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday of giving false information to induce people to believe that there was a bomb at Speke Airport, Liverpool. He was sentenced to nine months jail.

Mr Yeates had told a car park attendant there was a bomb under an aircraft wing, the court was told. Security was informed and as a result terminals were evacuated, a wedding reception in one of the lounges was cancelled, an aircraft took off leaving some passengers behind and radar staff left the control room.

When seen by the police next day, Mr Yeates said he made the remark only as a joke to the car park attendant.

Defendant alters plea and admits fraud

A financial consultant, allegedly involved in a fraud or "breath-taking magnitude" concerning the London & Counties Securities group, changed his plea to guilty at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Mr Arthur Pepperell, aged 53, of Baywater, London, admitted stealing £75,000 from London & Counties (A & D); £700,000, £800,000 and £900,000 from London & Counties Securities; dishonestly obtaining a reduction of a debt to London & Counties (A & D) by £300,000; falsifying a document; and uttering a forged letter.

Mr Pepperell is to be sentenced later. The trial was adjourned until Monday.



Sir Harold Wilson, the former Prime Minister, who has announced his decision not to stand again as MP, at a Merseyside charity shop yesterday.

Unclaimed benefits causing hardship, authorities say

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

City councils are being urged by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities to launch campaigns to encourage more people to claim their welfare benefits. The association is concerned that many families are suffering undue hardship because they are not claiming benefits to which they are entitled.

A controversial but successful poster campaign was conducted by Strathely Regional Council last year, despite official disapproval from ministers.

Strathely distributed 100,000 posters encouraging local people to claim various benefits last autumn, which led to an 83 per cent increase in lump sum grants being awarded, compared with the previous year.

Embassy demolition protest

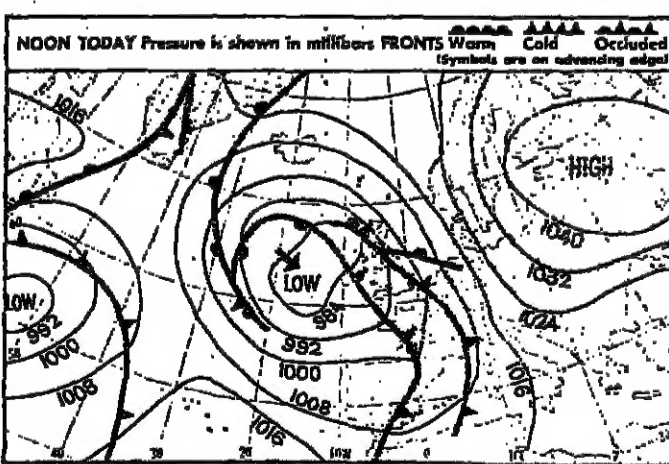
By Our Planning Reporter

The Greater London Council has asked the Government for an investigation into the demolition last November of the former Chinese Embassy in Portland Place, London. Consent for the demolition of the two houses, which were designed by Robert Adam and

listed as of historic and architectural interest, was granted with the proviso that as many of the interior fittings as possible should be preserved.

But all such fittings were apparently lost, either during the time the buildings were left empty or when they were demolished.

Weather forecast and recordings

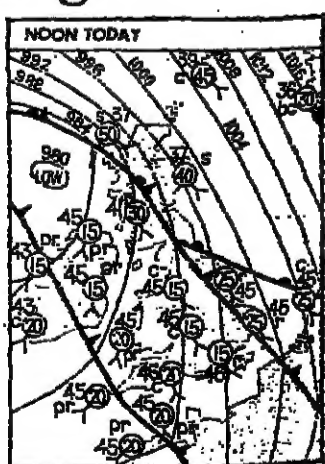


Today Sun rises: 6.48 am Sun sets: 5.38 pm Moon rises: 2.37 am Moon sets: 11.22 am

New Moon: March 6. Lighting up: 6.09 pm to 6.16 am. High water: London Bridge, 7.45 am, 5.6m; 8.16 pm, 5.6m; Avonmouth, 12.16 am, 9.6m; 12.47 pm, 9.4m; Dover, 4.29 am, 5.1m; 5.51 pm, 4.9m; Hull, 12.36 pm, 5.6m; Liverpool, 5.19 am, 7.1m; 5.50 pm, 6.9m.

Pressure will be low to W of British Isles. Associated troughs of low pressure will move N across many areas.

Forecast for 6 am to midnight: London, SE, SW, Central S England, East Anglia, Midlands, Channel Islands, Wales: Rather cloudy with occasional rain or showers, bright intervals; wind mainly S, fresh, locally strong; max temp, 6 to 8°C (43 to 46°F). E. Central N. NW England, Isle of Man, N. Ireland: Mostly cloudy,



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occasional rain, sleet or snow dying out: wind SE, strong to gale, becoming S, fresh to strong; max temp, 4 to 7°C (39 to 45°F). Lake District, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: Cloudy, periods of sleet or snow dying out: wind E, strong to gale, becoming SE, max temp, 3 to 5°C (37 to 41°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Generally unsettled, rather cold and cloudy, occasional rain, sleet or snow.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; snow.

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HOME NEWS

Aldermaston scientist quits after rebuke for appearance on TV

By Frances Gibb
Mr Trevor Brown, a senior scientist at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Aldermaston, who received a severe reprimand from the Ministry of Defence for speaking on television without permission, said yesterday that he was to retire early because he felt his career prospects had been damaged.
Mr Brown is 58 and was not due to retire for seven years. He was disciplined last November after criticising safety standards at the research establishment on a *Newsnight* programme, "Is Aldermaston safe?"
He said yesterday: "I am in an unhappy situation. I had wanted to complete my career and achieve a proper fulfilment of it, but the reprimand has damaged my prospects."
He has been with the Atomic Energy Authority since 1948 and moved to Aldermaston in 1961 because of his reputation for handling difficult and dangerous fuel processors. He is a Liberal county councillor.
Mr Brown said he did not wish to accept early retirement without having the severe reprimand removed from his record. He would have to find part-time work to support his family and the reprimand would be a severe handicap in finding a job in safety and allied fields.

in brief

Hospital waiting lists reduced

The number of people waiting for surgical operations had been reduced by 111,000 in the year to 641,000, the Department of Health and Social Security announced yesterday.
Mr Gerald Vaughan, Minister for Health, said it was a "significant achievement" and "a welcome news for patients and I would like to congratulate all the staff who have done so much to bring this about."

Mr Burke's Peerage fraud inquiry alleged

Mr David Haring, aged 25, of Hall 3, St John's Wood, London, Boyd Mayover, also aged 25, of New Road, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, were charged at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday for trial with conspiracy to defraud by selling advertising space in *Mr Burke's Peerage*.

Plans plan opposed

The Broadlands Authority yesterday decided to tell the story of the "Agriculture, Fisheries and Food" scheme, the proposed drainage of Halver Marshes, near Great Ouse, would cause acceptable changes to the scheme. If the ministry supported the scheme, the authority would call for a new inquiry.

Verdict reserved

Justice Mustill reserved judgment in the High Court today on the £24m insurance claim against a Lloyd's syndicate over the oil cargo that had been from the tanker *Exxon* before she was allegedly led off the coast of West Africa in January last year.

Death by starvation

An open verdict was recorded at Wexhampton inquest today on Mrs Nanti Chand, 50, who died of starvation in a nursing home for a week after the death of her husband in 1979. She eventually lost 11 stone to five stone.

Fail to agree

Sergeant Alexander Brown, aged 38, of Bushy Park, Wexhampton, was accused of a £45,000 conspiracy to defraud, may face a retrial at a jury at the Central Criminal Court on Thursday. Judge QC discharged them.

1000 ambush

Three masked men, one of whom was shot, ambushed a post office van on Woodrough Lane, Bordesley, Birmingham, yesterday. The van was carrying £22,000. The van was fired, police said.

Her stole ties

Ms Hilton, aged 55, the wife of a Lord, was fined £50 at Leeds Magistrates' Court yesterday for admitting stealing a stole from a self-service wholefoods shop in Leeds.

Sit for 27 seconds

A jury in the "handless" murder and drug trial at the Crown Court were told until Monday because of arguments yesterday, had been in court for 27 days.

Py emblem

Mark Council, London, has a sparrow as its emblem and to rename the *South-Spinner*.

Woman tells of night ordeal after plane crash

Miss Julie Hanson, aged 24, who escaped with three men from the wreckage of a burning aircraft and survived a night in freezing conditions on an open hillside spoke yesterday of her ordeal.
She was in the light aircraft that crashed on Thursday in the Ochil Hills north of Strirling.
Miss Hanson, of Fenwick, near Kilmarnock, and Mr Rice Eusebi, aged 19, of Mount Vernon, Glasgow, had just been discharged from hospital.
The pilot, Mr Ronald Harris, aged 35, a hypnotherapist, also of Fenwick, is detained in Bridge of Earn Hospital, with facial and ankle injuries and frostbite in both feet.
Another passenger, Mr Allan Foley, aged 27, of Prestwick, Ayrshire, is in the intensive therapy unit of Perth Royal Infirmary with chest burns.
Both he and Mr Eusebi are traffic control assistants at Prestwick.

Miss Hanson, who is Mr Harris's receptionist, said: "We left Dundee about 8.40 pm. It was quite turbulent. We came through the cloud. I think the aircraft iced up."
"Everything happened so quickly. The plane hit the ground, there was an explosion and it burst into flames."
"Ronnie was first out, then the man next to him and I was third. The other chap couldn't get out, so Ronnie went back and dragged him clear."
They started to walk to a farmhouse but Mr Foley could not keep up.
"We just cuddled up together until it became light, then sent Ronnie for help. He found a farmhouse and we were picked up by an RAF helicopter."

Life and leisure: Collections range from the obscure to disaster mail

Philately the hobby of kings and coal miners

By Cyril Bainbridge
It used to be a matter of buying a bumper packet of old stamps and sticking them into an album under their respective countries. But philately has grown into something approaching a science and a study of the history of communication.
The specialised nature of modern philately has been apparent at the annual Stampex exhibition, in its final day today at the Royal Horticultural Hall in London, where dealers' stands are stocked with carefully categorized varieties of stamps and covers from architecture to zeppelins.
"The days of collecting the stamps of the world are almost finished," Mr Eric Etkin, chairman of the Philatelic Traders' Society, said. "Collectors nowadays mostly concentrate on a particular theme or subject."
Collecting has been extended to cover postal history and the time when letters were handed to the captain of a ship and the fee recorded in writing on the cover; wartime campaigns; the history of aviation. Other popular themes include wild life preservation, flowers, industries and royal stamps. Some are obscure: one man I came across collects Norwegian missionary stamps from Madagascar.
Some themes are macabre, like those of collectors of disaster mail: letters that survived the sinking of the Lusitania or air crashes, perhaps with signs

of burning on the envelope, or letters that have suffered from the effects of hurricanes or floods.
Many collectors start in philately as a youthful hobby. Often interest is aroused in school philately groups where the collecting of stamps can make general history and geography more interesting subjects.
Most new collectors seek advice from stamp dealers. There are also philatelic societies in most areas, affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation.
"You may eventually become an expert in your particular theme and you can then share your knowledge with other collectors by writing on your subject," Mr Etkin said.

Mr Hain blames Front for attack on his house

By Ian Bradley
The home in south London of Peter Hain, the anti-apartheid campaigner, was attacked early yesterday morning.

Mr Hain believes the attack comes after the appearance of his name and address in a list of "local scum" in the *South London News*, a newsletter published by the Wandsworth and Lambeth branches of the National Front.
The National Front yesterday denied all knowledge of the incident.
Mr Hain said: "My wife and I were sitting in our kitchen at the back of the house having a cup of tea just after midnight when we heard a loud crash."
"I went to the front of the house and found that bricks had been thrown through the front windows. A group of people were running away shouting 'National Front', 'National Front'.
"He said about £100 of damage was done to his windows."
Mr Hain's name has twice appeared with those of other supporters of the Anti-Nazi League in the newsletter.
An edition published last autumn carried a list of 24 people. On the front page, it said: "We believe that the time has come to launch a war of nerves against the Anti-Nazi League using terror tactics."



Mr Hain at a smashed window in his house in south London yesterday.

Mr Hain said he thought he had been singled out for attack because of the publicity about his adoption last week as a Labour prospective parliamentary candidate for Wandsworth, Putney.

He is going to Scotland Yard on Wednesday with Mr Alfred Dubs, Labour MP for Wandsworth, Battersea, South, to discuss the incident with the police.

Mr Michael Salt, a member of the national directorate of the National Front and press officer of the Wandsworth branch, said the names and addresses of local members of

the Anti-Nazi League and other left-wing parties were published in the newsletter because "we want to make it clear to them that since they have been busy attacking us we want to show that our intelligence network is quite as good as theirs and we can give as good as we get."

He said he had no knowledge of the attack on Mr Hain's house and said: "If I did hear it was our members I would be very annoyed. Merely because people chant 'National Front' it does not mean they belong to it."

He went on: "We have been working on the assumption

Reprimand for police chief after inquiry

A senior police chief was reprimanded yesterday after an investigation into complaints against him.

Mr Harry Atkinson, assistant chief constable of Avon and Somerset, appeared before the Police Authority at a private meeting in Bristol. The authority was considering a report by Mr David Owen, Chief Constable of Dorset.
Mr Atkinson was told that no formal proceedings could be taken because those who complained did not want to pursue their case.

The police refused to disclose the nature of the complaints, but confirmed that the authority had "expressed their concern" to Mr Atkinson, and had asked Mr Ian Crawford, the chairman, and Mr Brian Weight, the Chief Constable, to give him "appropriate advice".

Wheelchair trails for national parks

From John Chartres Keswick

Wheelchair trails, graded like mountaineering routes as easy, moderate, or difficult, are to be sought and identified in all British national parks.

Experiments, partly financed by the Countryside Commission, are to be conducted into the design of a cross-country wheelchair for adventurous disabled people.
Those were the main decisions reached yesterday at the end of a two-day conference initiated by the Calvert Trust Adventure Centre for the Disabled near Keswick, supported by the Countryside Commission and attended by senior officers from all national parks and by a number of disabled people. The idea of identifying and mapping cross-country routes and trails accessible to disabled people in wheelchairs was put forward by Mr Anthony Chapman, reserves officer of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, himself a wheelchair user.

He said that he and friends would make recommendations on the sort of terrain and gradients that "average wheelers" propelling their wheelchairs could cope with.

Considerable opposition was expressed at the conference by the disabled delegates to any projects that would involve building cross-country roads and remote areas, such as Dartmoor, especially for them.

Such provisions might defeat the main object because able-bodied people in cars and on motor cycles would take advantage of them and solitude and quietness would be lost.

Considerable interest was, however, expressed in the "stymie gate" designed by a member of the staff of Essex county council. It permits the passage of a wheelchair, but not a motor cycle. Several ideas for "cross-country wheelchairs" were discussed informally, like versions of golf "buggies" used extensively in the United States.

Delegates felt that such devices would be too expensive for most disabled people to buy, but that several might be available for hire in national parks.

Mr John Davidson, acting director of the Countryside Commission, indicated that he thought spending part of his department's £10m a year budget to increase disabled people's enjoyment of the countryside would be fully justified under his terms of reference.

The conference, held at the Calvert Trust, which provides facilities for disabled people to ride, sail, fish, explore the countryside, watch birds and take part in other outdoor activities, was called as a contribution to the 1981 International Year of Disabled People.



The Prince of Wales wearing a handkerchief turban at a Sikh temple in Derby yesterday.

Sikhs share Prince's joy over engagement

The Prince of Wales sat cross-legged on the floor of a Sikh temple with a handkerchief covering his head yesterday, and said he wished Lady Diana Spencer could have been with him.
He had heard a religious leader say it had been his fiancée, but that now he had, the Sikh community shared his joy.
The prince, who was visiting Derby's immigrant areas, said he and his fiancée had been "enormously touched" by the response to their engagement.
The prince, who took his shoes off and wore a garland of flowers, said he had happy memories of a visit to the Golden Temple in Amritsar during his trip to India last year. The warmth of the welcome had been overwhelming.
The Prince delighted young West Indians at the Madley Centre by joining in a disco dancing demonstration and earned the admiration of the group's leader, Mr Anthony Stanley. "The Prince had good rhythm and some really good moves," he said.
At the Ukrainian Association Club, the Prince drank rye-based vodka, watched the dancing by the Ukrainian dance assembly and then accepted an invitation to make part.
At the Polish Club near by he refused sherry and drank another vodka, smashing his glass on the floor in the traditional manner.

Hailsham prison evidence

By Staff Reporter

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, and Mr William Whitely, Home Secretary, are to appear before the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee as part of a further investigation by MPs on prison overcrowding.

It is the first time that the Lord Chancellor has given evidence before one of the new departmental select committees. He will appear on March 23.

The committee, under Sir Graham Page, Conservative MP for Crosby, has been studying the administration of the prison department. But after evidence from groups such as the Magistrates' Association and Justices' Clerks' Society it has decided that the crucial issue is the prison overcrowding problem.

Mr William Waldegrave, Conservative MP for Bristol, West, said: "The work of the Prison Department highlighted the fact that everything depended on the overcrowding problem and we have decided to home in on that."

Another committee member, Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk, who moved to wind up the inquiry on the department, said he did not believe that it had been making progress.

"We could not make any really sensible suggestions when what we should have been addressing ourselves to was the crucial issue of prison overcrowding. If we did anything else, we could not be seen to be relevant."

The MPs will consider whether through a new approach to sentencing and other measures the prison population might be brought down to reduce demand on funds available for the prison building programme.

The Home Secretary, who will give evidence on March 16, will be asked if there could be better coordination between the department, the Home Office and the Lord Chancellor's department.

The committee will hear evidence again from the Prison Officers' Association. It will then meet in private on March 9 to arrange details of the next part of the investigation.

1st of Iranian students in Embassy protest fined £5

Last of the 72 Iranian students who were arrested in violent clashes with the police in the anti-American demonstration outside the US Embassy in London last summer, was fined £5 today.
Reza Nilforoush, aged 24,

said that after the hearing at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court, London: "I am very upset that so many of my Muslim brothers were deported."
All but a few of the arrested Iranians had refused to give their names and addresses, and

so went into prison. The magistrates refused to grant them bail without knowing their identity.
They started hunger strikes in protest and eventually 46 were deported on recommendations from the courts.
Mr Nilforoush, who is in his

final year at the Essex University, pleaded guilty to obstructing the police during the demonstration on August 4 in Grosvenor Square, Mayfair. He was one of the few who gave his particulars and was released on bail the following day, it was stated.

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HOME NEWS

Ruling shifts vast workload to justices and their clerks

Efficiency of magistrates' courts administration under threat

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

The efficient administration of justice in the magistrates' courts is under threat, after a decision by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court on Thursday restricting the number of people who are entitled to decide whether a summons should be issued. Justices' clerks intend to press for a change in the law.

The court's decision (reported in yesterday's *Times* Law Report) was to the effect that an information (the complaint that forms the basis of a prosecution) could be laid only by magistrates or by a justices' clerk, but not by assistants to the justices' clerks. There is

unlikely to be an appeal against the decision.

The ruling, though technical in nature, will have far-reaching consequences. Up to now, the practice has been that decisions to issue a summons in routine cases, the bulk of magistrates' court work, has been taken by qualified court clerks who are barristers, solicitors, law graduates, or holders of a diploma in magistrates' court law.

They deal with perhaps as much as 90 per cent of information laid. As a result of Thursday's ruling, all that work, millions of cases through the country, has to be done by magistrates or by the justices' clerk himself.

In Bristol, for example, about 50,000 summonses a year are issued. The justices' clerk, Mr Gerald Sullivan, the honorary secretary of the Justices' Clerks' Society, has 10 qualified court clerks under him who have been competent to deal with the vast majority of informations laid.

Now that those clerks will no longer be allowed to make those decisions, the burden will fall on Bristol's lay magistrates, who are already working to full capacity.

Moreover, as the magistrates are not themselves lawyers, they may need the assistance of qualified clerks to help them decide whether to issue summonses.

Press body challenge to 'Observer' deal

By Dan van der Vat

The Press Council yesterday took the unusual step of calling publicly for the planned takeover of *The Observer* by Lorrho to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Normally the Press Council confines its activities to adjudicating in cases of complaints against newspapers. Its findings do not have the force of law, but there is a convention that newspapers publish its verdicts voluntarily, even when adverse.

In a statement yesterday the council said: "The clear intention of the Fair Trading Act and the Monopolies and Mergers Act is that newspaper takeovers involving circulations of more than 500,000 should be subject to government approval and scrutiny by the monopolies commission."

The exception is where the takeover is a newspaper to newspaper deal. There is no suggestion that this is the case with *The Observer*, no warning of its sale."

The statement, from Mr Keith Morgan, the council's secretary, who was previously

general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, went on to reveal: "Last month the council unsuccessfully urged that the sale of Times Newspapers Ltd should be examined by the monopolies commission before being given government approval."

"For the Government now to approve a second major national newspaper takeover as a fair accession without an inquiry would be a serious blow to the credibility of legislation supposed to protect the public from increasing concentration of newspaper ownership in fewer hands."

"The Press Council itself has a duty laid on it by the first Royal Commission on the Press to report publicly on developments that tend towards greater concentration of ownership in the press." Mr Morgan concluded. As far as could be established last night, the statement was the first public indication that the council had intervened in the takeover of Times Newspapers by Mr Rupert Murdoch from the Thomson Organisation.

Aircraft had bird's nest in wing, court told

A judge at Southampton yesterday told a flier who will be 36 in a fortnight that he was giving him an unexpected birthday present by not sending him to prison.

Judge Ewart James told Captain Maurice Kirk, who had been in prison since May awaiting trial, that he had a fellow feeling for him because at his age he had also been a flier and a pilot.

"I understand the thrill of it, but you have got to show more self-control," he said.

He gave Captain Kirk a 12-month suspended jail sentence for a number of flying offences. During his trial which ended yesterday after three weeks, Southampton Crown Court was told that Captain Kirk, a veterinary surgeon of Taunton, Somerset, arrived at a hang-gliding rally at Mere, Wiltshire, in September, 1979, in his wooden biplane.

Mr John Aspinall, for the prosecution, said: "He gave unauthorized joy rides, performed dangerous aerobatics, landed without permission, and his plane was in appalling condition."

"It was infested with wood-boring insects, and had a bird's nest in the wing," he said. Captain Kirk admitted flying an unregistered aircraft, flying with incorrect registration markings, and not having a certificate of airworthiness. He was convicted on a further charge on a different date of flying without an airworthiness certificate.

He was acquitted on seven charges. The jury failed to agree on a charge that Captain Kirk caused his aircraft to endanger property or persons and the judge said that the charge should remain on the file.

Up to £7.50 offered printing trade staff

Labour Staff and employers' negotiators reached agreement on pay deal for 150,000 in the general printing industry which yields increases of between £7.50 and £8.60 a week. The deal is being recommended by union leaders.

Under the agreement, the new minimum for production workers will be £37.50 a week. New national agreements between the three unions and the British Printing Industries Federation will run from April 24.

Members of the National Graphical Association, National Society of Operative Printers, Graphic and Media Personnel, and Society of Graphical and Allied Trades will be consulted on the offer in ballots.

The increases will count for shift and overtime payments, but no new money will be added to bonus rates for the first five months of the agreement, after which bonuses will rise by half of the increase for each grade of worker.

Agreement has also been reached with the NGA on the introduction of productivity clauses and new working methods.

Gold snuff-boxes stolen in raid on museum

From Ronald Kershaw

Thieves broke into Temple Newsam House, on the outskirts of Leeds, to steal gold snuff-boxes valued at £400,000, and escaped within minutes.

A new security system which summoned the police to the "remote house" within six minutes of the break-in was breached, and Mr Robert Rowe, Leeds City Council Director of Art Galleries, said last night: "Basically it was a smash-and-grab raid."

The house, which was the birthplace of Lord Darley, husband of Mary Queen of Scots, and once belonged to Lord Halifax, was taken over by Leeds City Council to become its showplace museum. Entry was forced at about 10 pm on Thursday through a downstairs window, and upstairs the thieves smashed armoured plate glass in a showcase to get at the eighteenth and nineteenth-century gold snuff-boxes of German, Swiss, French and English origin.

Jersey tax case ruling later

Mr Justice Goulding reserved judgment yesterday in a High Court action in which Type Investments (Jersey) Ltd, seeking a ruling that the Inland Revenue have not got a worthwhile chance of winning their case for capital transfer tax estimated at more than £15m.

The dispute centres on the Guye Estate in Herefordshire, part of the estate of the late Sir Charles Clode.

Royal baby in May

Princess Anne said at Bath yesterday that she expected to have her second child on Thursday, May 14.

Judge settles Clarkson's dispute

A dispute over who is entitled to what from the remnants of Clarkson's Holidays, the travel company that crashed in 1974, ended in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Justice Nourse ruled that the Air Travel Reserve Agency, which helped to compensate disappointed Clarkson customers, could lay claim to part of Clarkson's liquidation payout.

Four banks and another financial company who, under a trust agreement involving the Tour Operator's Study Group Trust Fund Ltd, also helped to pay the compensation bill to customers, were, the judge



Lord Noel-Baker and Lord Brockway: Veteran campaigners.

Plymouth Hoe ban on peace rally is expected

By John Witherow

An anti-nuclear peace rally is expected to be banned from Plymouth Hoe for political reasons nine months after Mr Wedgwood Benn addressed trade unionists on the same site.

The meeting, which had attracted the two peace campaigners, Lord Noel-Baker and Lord Brockway, both aged 92, was due to take place on the Saturday before Easter April 18, as part of a series of demonstrations throughout Europe against nuclear weapons.

But the Conservative-controlled Plymouth City Council special events subcommittee decided on Wednesday that the rally should not proceed because it did not want political meetings on Plymouth Hoe and because the organizing group was not nationally recognized.

The recommendation will now go before the council's leisure services committee on Thursday where an alternative site for the meeting may be discussed. Labour members of the

council, which owns Plymouth Hoe, are largely opposed to the ban.

Mr Thomas Savery, the chairman of the Plymouth United Peace Action Group, said it was a local umbrella organization for such national and international groups as the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the Women's Disarmament Campaign and Friends of the Earth.

"I would consider those national organizations," Mrs Julie Brock, one of the organizers, said. "I think it is shocking that a peace rally which is a non-political event is somehow a dirty word today."

The group intends to go ahead with a march through the city to the Charles Church Memorial.

WEST EUROPE

China sends Dutch Ambassador home

From Robert Schull

The Hague, Feb 27
China has asked the Dutch to recall their Ambassador from Peking because the Netherlands refuses to stop the sale of two submarines to Taiwan.

Mr Andries van Agt, the Prime Minister, told Parliament today that "the contents and the timing of the Chinese request had not come as a surprise". The Chinese Ambassador to The Hague, Mrs Ding Xuesong, is not to return to The Netherlands, which she left in October.

This decision to reduce diplomatic relations with The Netherlands to the lowest possible level about breaking them off completely, followed yesterday's third debate in less than three months in the lower House on the Cabinet's decision to go ahead with the submarine sale.

The Government faces a vote next week in the House on two opposition motions tabled yesterday, one a motion of censure, and another a motion of "disapproval" over the Cabinet's refusal to carry out the House's wishes.

At the beginning of this month, the House carried a motion supported by 11 members of the ruling Christian Democrats asking the Government to reconsider its decision to grant the export licence to the Rijk-Schelde-Verolme shipyard in Rotterdam. But Mr van Agt told Parliament yesterday that the Cabinet was legally bound to stand by its earlier commitment to the shipyard.

It has now become clear, that the 11 Christian Democrats who voted against the Government will not vote for either of the motions tabled yesterday. They are therefore expected to be rejected.

Peking contracts lost: The Chinese decision was announced in a note handed to the Dutch Ambassador, Mr Jan Kneepel, at the Foreign Ministry (Reuters reports from Peking).

The Chinese Government reiterates its demand that Sino-Dutch diplomatic relations be downgraded to the level of chargé d'affaires and proposes that negotiations on the matter be held as soon as possible," the note said.

It claimed that the sale was an unacceptable grave interference in China's internal affairs and an infringement of its sovereignty.

The Dutch stand has already hit commercial relations between the two countries, with the cancellation of several existing contracts, according to Chinese officials.

The Dutch are also selling Taiwan equipment worth about \$250m (£100m) for conventional and nuclear power stations. The Chinese Government has not objected to this sale.

China and The Netherlands raised the status of their envoys from chargé d'affaires to ambassador in 1972.



Spaniards march through Madrid last night in protest at the attempted coup.

Million march through Madrid in condemnation of officers' plot

From Richard Wigg

Madrid, Feb 27
Many hundreds of thousands marched in a two-hour procession through Madrid tonight in support of the democratic Constitution. Condemning the officers who tried to seize power on Monday, they chanted: "Democracy yes, dictatorship no" and "Long live the King".

Police said about a million took part, headed by the leaders of the four main political parties in Parliament. The marchers were under guard by four battalions which exploded under cars along their route half an hour after the demonstration began.

But although nobody was hurt, the marchers' mood grew tense. Similar marches were held tonight in other Spanish cities. In Barcelona an estimated 300,000 took part and in Valencia 350,000.

As suspicion grew that leading generals had been involved in Monday's conspiracy, the Spanish Government today appointed General José María García Escudero, an Air Force judicial expert, to head the inquiry into the abortive coup.

Three senior generals are now under arrest and a fourth

has been relieved of his command. In addition the arrest has been announced of two Army colonels and a major, a naval captain and 15 officers seconded to the National Guard.

The Defence Ministry has said there was evidence to suggest that Lieutenant-General Alfonso Armada, deputy chief of the Army staff and one of those under arrest, had taken part in the plot "with the intention of becoming head of government".

Besides Lieutenant-General Jaime Milans del Bosch, who was arrested on Tuesday for having declared a state of emergency in the Valencia region without consultation, the Defence Ministry said Major-General Luis Torres Rojas, the military governor of the Canary region, had been arrested.

General Torres was sent to Galicia in January last year after being suddenly dismissed from command of the elite Brunete armoured division stationed north of Madrid amid rumours of a plot which the Suárez Government then denied. It has now emerged he was back in Madrid last Sunday.

Major-General Pizarro, head of the Meistrago division, stationed in Valencia, is the general who has been relieved of his command. Colonel José San Martín López, who is under arrest, was head of the Brunete division's general staff.

Major Ricardo Palma, also arrested, had charge of the military police unit from the same armoured division, habitually thought of as crucial in any move to seize Madrid. This police unit reached the Cortes in Madrid on Tuesday and joined the rebel officers.

Major Palma is alleged to be a member of the "Almond Trees" group of serving officers and right-wing civilians who wrote a series of inflammatory articles in *El Alcazar*, the daily of the civil war veterans' association, which the Judge Advocate is now also expected to examine.

According to some versions, the daily was the vehicle for a campaign against democracy, together with an obscure tour journal monthly which it has now been discovered included, perhaps in coded language, the precise date for the coup.

Malta police arrest editors over bomb story

From Our Correspondent

Valletta, Feb 27
The editors of two daily newspapers, together with reporters, have been held for questioning by the police over the past 48 hours after reports their papers carried about a bomb attack earlier in the week.

Last night the editor and a reporter of *The Times* (formerly *The Times of Malta*) an independent publication, were detained and on Wednesday night the acting editor and a reporter of *In-Nazzjon Taghina* (Our Nation) were held.

The latter paper, an organ for the opposition Nationalist Party, is now no longer allowed to carry the word *Nazzjon* in its masthead since this word, together with that of *Malta* is banned by the authorities.

The report the papers carried concerned a bomb thrown at a delegation of the Federation of Industries as it was leaving the headquarters of the Malta Development Corporation, a Government body.

The police and the Department of Information later issued a joint statement to the effect that investigations had brought nothing to light and that the reports were obviously published to cause public alarm.

Two nights ago the police went to the Nationalist Party printing press and asked for, and were given, the fragment of explosive. They took the editor and a reporter to police headquarters for interrogation.

The editor was released soon afterwards. After interrogating the reporter they removed his shoe laces and confined him to a cell until this morning.

The feeling is that the Government, continually under attack on several issues, not least the courts reform Bill—has decided to tighten the screws on the section of the press not amenable to its policy.

Nato missile pads go astray

Oslo, Feb 27—Norwegian state railway officials were unable to explain today how a wagonload of launch pads for Nato rockets was misdirected to East Germany.

The wagon went astray in Sweden while in transit between the Norwegian towns of Narvik and Berne. Officials said it was finally found in Sassnitz in East Germany and was immediately returned to Norway—Reuters.

Cast-iron defence

Rome, Feb 27—Bulletproof vests, raincoats and briefcases will be made available to all Italian magistrates who want them the Justice Ministry announced.

Greeks say earthquake peril over

From Mario Modiano

Athens, Feb 27
Mr Nondas Solounias, secretary general of the Greek tourist organization, has assured all foreign tourists planning to spend their holidays in Greece, that they will be perfectly safe from earthquakes.

There had been concern among tour operators abroad, he said today, after the collapse of four hotels near the two of Corinth, epicentre of the severe earthquakes on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mr Solounias said: "There are about 1,000 hotels in the area and they have withstood the powerful shocks well. Besides, there are reports in the press today that the centre of the earthquakes is moving away from Greece eastwards."

Four hotels had been destroyed in the disaster area: the Kiriaki which had 26 floors and 26 rooms and was C class; one in the B class at Loutraki, with five floors and 37 rooms; an A-class hotel, also at Loutraki, with six floors and 27 rooms; and finally the Vrachati, west of Corinth, a B-class hotel with five floors and 266 rooms which had not yet obtained its operating licence.

The secretary-general said the Ministry of Public Works was conducting an inquiry to establish the causes of the hotels' destruction, after checking as to whether the standard specifications were observed.

Engineers from the same ministry, he said, were inspecting the structural fitness of the other hotels in Europe, some of which had suffered slight damage. "They will produce their report by the middle of next week," Mr Solounias said.

M Barre ends silence to outline job schemes

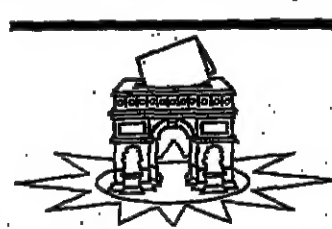
From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Feb 27
M Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister, has ended his silence of the past two weeks to inform the press about the Government's latest measures to increase employment.

Whatever the reasons, the government's performance in this field is not a good one and the candidates in the presidential campaign are concentrating their criticism on this weak point in its four-and-a-half years' record.

The National Statistical Institute's latest forecast for 1981, in which the unemployment rate is projected to rise to 10.5 per cent, is a "strong acceleration" in the number of job-seekers in the first half of this year.

M François Mitterrand, the



French Presidential Election

Socialist leader, declared two days ago in the new party newspaper *Combat Socialiste* that 200,000 jobs could be created for one-fifth of the cost of present unemployment benefits.

M Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, claimed at

a meeting this week that President Giscard d'Estaing and employers had deliberately provoked the present rate of unemployment, to call on the state to return to full employment was possible. To begin with, he said, 3.5 million new jobs must be created between now and 1987.

M Jacques Chirac, speaking yesterday to economic journalists, did not mention any job targets, but emphasized that a reduction in unemployment depended on creating a new "state of mind" in industry rather than on financial or other incentives. "To fight joblessness and inflation, the essential thing is to restore confidence," he said.

M Barre outlined yesterday four measures decided on by the Cabinet to preserve or

create 200,000 jobs in 1981.

They are: to double to 400,000 the number of young people receiving professional training; to call on the employers' federation to create 100,000 part-time jobs in the private sector while the Government creates 50,000 in the public sector; to encourage employers to resort more often to short-time working to avoid laying off staff; and to encourage for the time being retirement before the age of 60.

The Prime Minister, who spoke to the press instead of René Monory, the Economics Minister, emphasised that the Government was determined to do everything in its power to increase employment, as long as it did not lead to a deterioration in the economic and financial situation.

East Germans censured on human rights

From Alan McGregor

Geneva, Feb 27
East Germany has been censured in the United Nations Human Rights Commission for denying its citizens the right to emigrate, according to reliable sources here.

The decision today, by a one-vote majority in the 43-nation commission, is the first time a Soviet bloc country has been thus condemned in the United Nations for a "consistent pattern" of human rights violations.

Also by a one-vote majority, this body, meeting here in private last September, decided the communications relating to East Germany constituted a prima facie case to be referred to the full commission.

Italian MPs unsettled by test of voting loyalty

From Peter Nichols

Rome, Feb 27
The Chamber of Deputies lived one of its most frustrating days today with the coalition government's insistence on turning six consecutive divisions on fairly unimportant issues into votes of confidence.

The issue concerns increasing the pension rate and the way in which cost-of-living increases are calculated. This calculation is now made every six months; under the Government's new proposals it will be every four months.

The Government has had to turn to this cumbersome method of legislating by vote of confidence for fear that some of its theoretical supporters would take advantage of a secret vote to oppose the

measure. A vote of confidence is taken by roll-call and so is public.

This is the third time that Signor Arnaldo Forlani's coalition government's insistence on confidence votes in its five months of existence, and the result is widely seen as depriving the measure of its real significance. The reason why the coalition parties are suspected of possible disloyalty is attributed to the forthcoming local government elections due in the spring in, among other places, Rome.

Signor Clelio Darida, the minister ostensibly dealing with administrative reform, is reported in an interview to be published this weekend by the weekly *L'Espresso* as saying that Signor Forlani's reputation as a mediator was not sufficient.

Britain's envoy leaving Bonn for retirement

From Patricia Clough

Bonn, Feb 27
The most popular ambassador Britain has had in Bonn, Sir Oliver Wright, will board a British frigate at Hamburg on Monday to go into retirement.

After five years Sir Oliver has been defusing West German antagonism over Britain's behaviour with a disarmament business wrapped up in a British product—German beer.

When things got rough, he would quote Konrad Adenauer, the federal republic's first Chancellor: "Take people as they are—there isn't any other kind."

An unassuming figure in brightly coloured shirts some times frayed at the cuffs with a gift for putting difficult problems in simple terms, Sir Oliver inspired the kind of press coverage that any politician would envy.

British farmers cannot count across and start ploughing in continental fields, he would say, so it is understandable why British fishermen should be angry at other Europeans making in on their fishing ground. He will be succeeded by Sir Jock Taylor, formerly Ambassador to The Netherlands.

Italian extradited

Brescia, Italy, Feb 27
Marco Donat Cattin, the year-old son of a prominent Christian Democrat politician, was extradited from France to Italy where he faces trial in Turin on five murder charges. He was arrested in Paris in December.

Mak...
arrest...
editors...
bomb...

OVERSEAS

Refugees live in soccer field to escape from El Salvador killers

From Michael Leapman
San Salvador, Feb 27

Nearly 1,000 refugees, mostly women and children, who have fled from their homes to avoid falling victim to the murderous, factional fighting in El Salvador, are living on a football field in one of the better areas of the capital, not far from the Archbishop's palace.

The concrete terraces along the touchline are perfect for drying clothes, shirts and trousers in bright red, green, blue and orange are laid out in the hot sun, beneath the towering volcano of San Salvador, which nearly wiped out the city when it last erupted in 1917.

The women do their washing communal scrubbing boards behind one of the goals. Not far away, others use the stone slabs to grind corn for their tortillas. They pick up the bits of dough and press it into a disc with a fleshy thumb before making the flat, round pieces of bread on wood-burning stoves. The Indians did a thousand years ago.

The corn and the beans they eat with them are supplied by the Roman Catholic Relief organization. The church, El Salvador has become identified with the left, which is why many church supporters have been victims of right-wing militia attacks.

At night, as the refugees—by a small percentage of those in this country—go to sleep in air hammocks slung in flimsy awnings, the high metal gate the field is shut and they are protected from attack by a tall, why built black wall.

In the dust round their stony legs, the children cry, many with running, infected eyes but only a few of the distended bellies that signify under-nourishment. One other glumly picked her from a daughter's matted hair.

First football field has served as a refuge for the last year, body would claim that the conditions here are among the best endured by refugees over the world. Yet here, in the centre of the capital, their crowded camp is a symbol of the country's self-inflicted tragedy.

They are here because they, their husbands or their fathers were thought to have been connected with left-wing guerrillas. They are thus targets for revenge killings by the right.

For this reason, most of them are reluctant to talk and none will give their names. Yet short conversations with a few gave some idea of the terrible hopelessness of refugees with nothing to do but wait.

A woman who had been in the camp with her six children since August said she fled from her home 70 miles east of here because "unknown persons" had threatened her. "There is no work here," she said.

Before she could go on, one of the few men in the camp said she should not talk to me. Instead, I was presented to a comparatively well-dressed man who seemed to be the political spokesman for the refugees. He had been here since the camp was established last March.

"All the people here are fleeing from repression," he said. "They (the Army and rightist groups) organize excursions into our places and kill and harass people who belong to popular organizations and to the Christian community."

He said health conditions were bad. Children often had eye infections and gastroenteritis and 15 had died since the camp opened. There were no doctors on the spot, but the children could go to a neighbouring hospital.

A young boy approached us and showed a purple gash on the side of his head. Soldiers had done it with a machine, he claimed.

I asked the man how long he thought the refugees would have to stay in the field. "Until the triumph of the revolution," he said. "Until the United States stops helping the armed forces to defend the rights of the exploiters."

Even allowing for the political hyperbole, it is going to be a long time before the field can be reclaimed for football.

Leading article, page 15

West Bank settlers get visit from Mr Begin

From Christopher Walker
Nablus, Feb 27

For the first time in nearly four years, Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, has visited some of the controversial Jewish settlements which his right-wing Government has encouraged since taking office in 1977.

Today's unexpected tour, in the company of three senior Cabinet Ministers and a score of worried-looking security men, was seen as the unofficial opening of the campaign for the general election in June in which the future of the West Bank is expected to emerge as a central issue.

The Government is anxious to demonstrate the "rapid expansion of Jewish settlement which has taken place under its aegis, and to deflect criticism of its unhappy economic record by depicting the opposition Labour Party as being prepared to hand over parts of the West Bank to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Throughout the hectic four-hour trip today, the rousing welcome given to Mr Begin by the Jewish settlers, their flag-waving children, and dancing religious students was in sharp contrast with the sullen resentment shown in all the Arab villages passed hastily on the way.

With a number of other reporters, I was permitted to drive with the official procession of cars which hurried through the sealed-off streets of Nablus, the West Bank's biggest and most militantly Palestinian town, at speeds of up to 60 mph. Big traffic jams of Arab drivers built up at the main junctions, closed off as part of the security operation.

The most emotional stopping-



Children welcome Mr Begin to Kadummin settlement during his tour of the West Bank yesterday.

place was Kadummin, an isolated settlement of 600 Jews established illegally by the ultra-nationalist Gush Emunim group in 1975 and finally declared legal by Mr Begin during a personal visit soon after his election triumph in May, 1977.

The Prime Minister, looking tired and strained today, addressed settlers in the new hall at the self-styled "Erez wall" Mr Begin established to teach outsiders "the value of settlement". He emphasized that his Likud coalition had

kept its election promises and greatly increased the total of Jewish settlements in the area. Mr Begin was accompanied on the tour by Mr Yoram Aridon, the new Minister of Finance, who recently sanctioned more funds for new settlements in his budgetary proposals, Dr Joseph Burg, Minister of the Interior and Mr Ariel Sharon, the former war hero and Minister in charge of the expansionist settlement programme.

Although the reception at the

four settlements visited was warm, a number of settlers were critical of Mr Begin's Government, accusing it of not providing sufficient financial backing and of failing to annex the West Bank.

Typical was the reaction of Mr Yitzhak Moses, a young religious student at the two-year-old settlement of Karnei Shomron.

"We are very disappointed that Mr Begin has never made his visit to us before, although he talks so often

about the settlers and the great job we are doing," he said. "But, of course, we will all vote for him rather than the Labour Party—they want to give away our rightful control over Judea and Samaria."

Mr Moses refused to answer a question about what action he and his fellow-settlers would take if a future Government tried to dismantle the settlement, which now stretches over 400 acres. He just fingered his rifle slung over his left shoulder and smiled.

Britons fly out of Iran at third attempt

From Tony Allaway
Tehran, Feb 27

Three British Anglicans managed to leave Iran at the third attempt today, ending a six-month ordeal as suspected spies.

Dr John Coleman, his wife Audrey, and Miss Jean Waddell were in good time to board today's Iran Air flight for Athens, Rome and Madrid. They missed a flight yesterday apparently because they were just too late.

There was still no indication of when the British had prevented their departure on Wednesday, apart from a statement by the official Pars news agency that it involved passport problems. Nor was there any further indication of the fate of a fourth Briton still held in Evin prison, Tehran, on charges of spying and embezzlement. Officials have said, however, that Mr Andrew Pyke, a businessman, will be tried.

With the three on the aircraft was Mr Terry Waite, the special representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who has worked for their freedom, and that of four Iranian Anglicans, over the past three weeks.

Before he left Mr Waite gave me some idea of just how difficult those negotiations had been. At one point, he said, there had been a genuine danger of the Anglicans being put on trial, especially Miss Waddell.

It was one of his principal concerns in talking with the Iranians to avoid this, he said. "It was vital to have them out innocent. If they were put in the dock and found guilty imagine what it would have meant for the Iranian Anglican community still here."

Mr Waite described his negotiations as "like walking on eggshells. It was nerve-wracking. It was a very lonely business and I felt the pressure of that."

Without going into details, Mr Waite indicated that one of the problems in freeing the Britons was attempts by "extreme radicals" inside the country to prevent officials from clearing their names. He hinted that an outside country was involved. "There are people who don't want Iran to have a reasonable relationship with the West," he said.

Diplomatic sources who have suggested the same thing believe these attempts included the spreading of disinformation, such as recent false reports that Mr Waite was arranging a swap with two Iranians jailed in Britain after a Dayswater hotel explosion last year.

Mr Waite categorically denied this. "It is a total lie. When I heard it I nearly went through the roof."

Russians among Muslim Brotherhood victims, Syria says

From Robert Fisk
Damascus

Mr Ahmed Iskander leaped back in his leather padded swivel-chair, drew heavily on his Cuban cigar and vouchsafed his personal self-confidence in Syria's body politic.

The Muslim Brotherhood, he said, "are smashed inside Syria. Those who have been active inside Syria are running away and those outside Syria have now started to liquidate each other. The larger part of the opposition has gathered in West Germany and Britain."

The Syrian Minister of Information regarded his country's internal upheavals as being at an end. But there was a clicking sound from his office door as an aide operated the special

terrorist-proof lock and entered with a hand-written message. The door snapped shut behind him and Iskander is a bold man but he is clearly still taking no chances.

He conceded for the first time in an interview with The Times that about 300 Syrians—Baath Party members, government officials and ordinary civilians—had been assassinated by the Brotherhood. And he spoke of the victims.

They included he said, Dr Josef Sayegh (President Hafiz al-Assad's personal physician), Mr Ali al-Ali, a prominent agricultural scientist, Dr Shabadi Khalil, a brain surgeon, Dr Muhammad al-Fadel, the president of Damascus University

and Mr Darwish Asawi of the Syrian Socialist Union.

Many of those who have been killed, Mr Iskander said, were not Baath Party members and the victims included "three or four Soviet experts" who were working on railway development and river projects. "Very shortly," he added, "we shall publish a book listing all our martyrs, including their names, jobs, qualifications and how they were murdered."

Mr Iskander blamed Jordan for "assassinations, killings and sabotage" and accused King Hussein's Government of insincerity. "We have in our hands a lot of documents and a number of people who have convinced us that the Jordan regime was involved in these

things", he said. But the minister seemed equally confident that relations between Jordan and Syria would improve. A Jordanian delegation which had visited Damascus last week, he said, had "re-affirmed the solidarity with Syria".

What this means in less rhetorical language is that Syria and Jordan are now set on repairing their mutual relations.

Upon this treaty, Mr Iskander waxed somewhat lyrically although his enthusiasm did not extend to the military details of the pact. When I asked him if the brand-new Soviet-made T72 tanks I had seen in two parks in western

Damascus under tarpaulins were part of a new consignment of arms from the Soviet Union, he replied obliquely: "Syrian television has shown film of our tanks on manoeuvres. I can assure you that we have modern defensive weapons."

Asked if the Syrians possess 139 Czech training aircraft—seen over the city of Homs some days ago—and a new MiG 27 fighter aircraft, Mr Iskander said that Syria was thankful to everyone who could extend help in the country's "national battle against Zionist expansion". And he added: "We will not hesitate in going to any possible lengths to enable us to face external aggression and the expansionist policy of Israel."

Europe reacts cautiously to charge against Cuba

David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Western European reactions to the American charges of Cuban interference in El Salvador have been cautious but not supportive.

The British Government acted fully to condemn "activities which can be regarded only as interference in the internal affairs of El Salvador" without naming Cuba, a statement was fitted to coincide with Mrs Thatcher's visit in Washington.

Yesterday an El Salvador mission in London pressed its confidence that Britain would do what it could to support a negotiated settlement.

Dr Ivo Alvarez, El Salvador ambassador in Rome, who is a member of the mission bringing European capitals, said yesterday that they were looking for moral support for a policy of negotiation, and stronger voices in the European Community.

"We want a peaceful solution," Dr Alvarez said, "people thought we wanted a literary solution, but the government is calling the whole lot of very difficult to fear the guerrillas, he explained, and even if they did, terrorist phenomenon would remain. Although militarily the

regime was "more secure than ever", he felt that a military victory would risk encouraging a purely military government. "That is why all of us are totally in favour of a negotiated solution."

Most European Governments seem to accept the American evidence that arms were being smuggled into El Salvador and that this amounted to outside interference.

M Jean Francois-Poncet, the French Ambassador in Washington, said in Washington this week that neither President Reagan nor Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, asked for French support in their policies towards El Salvador.

"We are convinced that the situation in Central America requires economic and social reforms," he said. "It is not through military means that these problems are going to be solved."

Invitation declined: West Germany hopes of arranging talks between the El Salvador Government and opposition leaders appeared doomed today after President Duarte declined an invitation to visit Bonn.

Señor Jose Seguea Sepúlveda, El Salvador's chief diplomat in Bonn, told reporters that the President had decided against travelling to Europe next week because of the internal situation in his country.—Reuters.

Trudeau disdains opposition from provinces

From John Best
Ottawa, Feb 27

Mr Pierre Trudeau determined to press ahead with his plan to bring home Canada's constitution from Britain, even in the face of fierce opposition from the provinces, said last night: "There is no price you can pay that will satisfy the provinces."

He poured scorn on provincial efforts to find an alternative patriation formula to the one he is proposing, and described such efforts as a "purely dilatory" manoeuvre.

He noted that the six provinces most united against the federal plan had not even been able to agree among themselves on what should be done. They had succeeded only in proving that federal-provincial unanimity was not possible.

Delhi resurrects law to curb lavish banquets

From Trevor Fishlock
Delhi, Feb 27

A faint shadow is being cast across the magnificent feasts of Delhi, those sublime mixtures of showpieces of Indian cookery and confectionery which make peacocks well in pleasant anticipation. The dreaded Delhi Guest Control Order is being resurrected.

The order was brought in about 25 years ago to control food, there were food shortages at the time and the order was devised to put an end to the spectacles of groaning boards which, it was felt, were offensive to their guests.

The Delhi authorities wanted to make a stand against feasts so grand in scale that even when guests' shirt buttons were bursting there was still much food wasted.

For a while a sort of "feast police" belonging to the city administration "raided" receptions and banquets, but, eventually enforcement of the guest control order stopped.

After all it takes a considerable measure to be conspicuous and spoilsport about an event like a wedding feast, bearing in mind that in India a bride's father is expected to provide an impressive banquet and loses face by not doing so.

Nevertheless, the order remains on the books. It applies to feasts attended by 100 guests or more and stipulates that no more than four dishes can be served. Inspectors can order surplus food to be taken away.

The Delhi administration said today that the guest control order had been dusted down.

It is not simply a matter of food scarcity, although there is a slight sugar problem, and the price of cooking oil is increasing, a spokesman said.

The banqueting manager of one of the leading hotels said that his policy was to give customers as many dishes as they required. Receptions and wedding feasts were meant to be happy occasions at which people relaxed and ate their fill.

Diplomatic gaffe by Mr Reagan

Continued from page 1

extricably involved, as in Panama.

Responding to several questions about the recent suggestion from President Leonid Brezhnev of the Soviet Union for a summit conference of the superpowers, Mr Thatcher said it was essential that Mr Reagan should not "dash" into asking a reply.

The British leader made it clear that Britain and the rest of the community were determined to go ahead with their separate initiative designed to bring peace to the Middle East.

After her talks with President Reagan at the White House yesterday morning, and a round of consultations with Capitol Hill with members of the Senate and the House.

Representatives yesterday morning, Mrs Thatcher's first full day of the American capital was last night's official dinner.

Unfortunately, the host of the dinner was responsible for the only apparent, albeit minor,

diplomatic gaffe of the evening. He was asked by reporters whether he would like to go to the wedding in the summer of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer. "I'd love to go very much. It would be lovely," he enthused.

Checking later with the First Lady, he discovered that he had not yet been invited to attend the royal wedding.

Among the 94 American and British guests at the dinner was Mr John Louis, scion of the Johnson's wax fortune, who is strongly tipped to be America's next Ambassador in London.

Rather it was Mr Rupert Murdoch, new owner of The Times. He appeared on the guest list as publisher of the New York Post.

After today's speech on the world economy at Georgetown University and a morning spent visiting two high-technology operations near Washington, Mrs Thatcher was tonight to return to the President's hospitality with a state dinner at the British Embassy on Massachusetts Avenue.



Mrs Thatcher at Georgetown

US seeking only 'verbal' support against Cuba

From David Cross
Washington, Feb 27

Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, said today that the United States was not asking Britain and its other European allies at this stage for more than verbal support in its efforts to stop the supply of arms from Cuba to leftist guerrillas in El Salvador.

Nevertheless, he told British reporters after a lengthy session of talks with Lord Carington, the Foreign Secretary, that what happened in the Americas was of vital interest to the Europeans, too. "This is a global level of unacceptable conduct managed in general by the Soviet Union and applied in specific cases by their Cuban proxies," he said.

Asked how far the United States would go to stop the supply of arms, Mr Haig said the new Administration considered the possibility of sending personnel to help with technical training for the maintenance of helicopters or other similar equipment.

Mr Haig said Washington had been very pleased with the full measure of support which the European allies had displayed in accepting what he called the irrefutable evidence which the Administration had provided of Cuban involvement in El Salvador.

Close consultations between

Washington and European capitals would continue as the Administration developed its policy towards the embattled American republic, he promised.

In response to another question about whether President Reagan would accept the President's invitation to a summit meeting, Mr Haig said that a decision would be "materially influenced by our assessment of corresponding global Soviet activity."

He said that the assessment of Soviet behaviour in such countries as Afghanistan, Kampuchea, and El Salvador among others must clearly precede any decision on American attendance at a summit.

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SUNDAY TIMES

weekly review

28 FEBRUARY 1981

The election of the American president is the most important event in the world since the end of the Second World War. It is a contest that will have a profound impact on the world. It is a contest that will have a profound impact on the world. It is a contest that will have a profound impact on the world.

What does this mean for the world? What does this mean for the world? What does this mean for the world?

Godfrey Hodgson asks:

OVERSEAS

Officer gets 15 years for killing black boy

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, Feb 27

A national service subaltern in the South African Army was sentenced to 15 years in jail today for the cold-blooded killing of a nine-year-old African boy. He shot the boy dead at the roadside as he headed home on a weekend pass.

Second Lieutenant Jacobus Botha, aged 19, would have been sentenced to death automatically if a judge and two assessors had not found an extenuating circumstance.

Mr Justice van Reenen said in the Klerksdorp circuit court, 100 miles south-west of Johannesburg, that Lieutenant Botha, by being commissioned, was given responsibility at a young age which proved a burden he could not cope with.

It is predictable that the verdict will be criticized outside South Africa on the ground that a white boy killed in a similar attack by a black, the killer would have been sentenced to hang. Lieutenant Botha will be eligible for parole and remission of his jail sentence.

On November 6 last year, Lieutenant Botha and five other national servicemen—all rifleman—began a 300-mile journey in two cars from their barracks in Kimberley to Johannesburg for weekend leave.

They loaded up with six packs of beer and Lieutenant Botha also brought his loaded R1 rifle, the South African version of the standard NATO FN, loaded with a full magazine of 20 rounds of ammunition.

The court was told that the lieutenant fired indiscriminately at roadside targets during the journey. Near Bloemfontein, halfway between Kimberley and Johannesburg, a group of African children was walking home along the roadside from school and Lieutenant Botha stopped the cars.

He got out, levelled the rifle, and shot Petrus Makwaba dead. A young girl, Grijanah Thabe, aged 13, was wounded.

Lieutenant Botha pleaded that he was drunk after having four bottles of beer.

The crime was shocking, the judge said, before sentencing Lieutenant Botha to 15 years' jail for the murder of the boy, eight years for the attempted murder of the girl and one year for malicious damage to property, to run concurrently.

Lieutenant Botha pleaded not guilty to the charges. Four other national servicemen pleaded not guilty to charges of attempted murder and being accessories to attempted murder. Rifleman Jan Hattingh was acquitted, and Rifleman Christo Coetjue, Marius De Barm and Hendrik Koekemoer were sentenced to five years' imprisonment, suspended for five years.

\$587,000 award against Beatle

New York, Feb 27.—George Harrison, the former Beatle, was ruled liable for \$587,000 (\$267,000) in damages when a court found that the melody for his 1971 hit "My Sweet Lord" had been "subconsciously plagiarized" from a 1963 song "He's So Fine" by a company owned by Mr Alan Klein, former business manager of Mr Harrison, which paid that sum to Bright Tunes Music Corporation in 1975 for the plagiarized tune.—Reuters.

Mrs Bhutto is freed but banned from Punjab

Islamabad, Feb 27.—Begum Nusrat Bhutto, widow of Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Pakistan's executed Prime Minister, returned home to Karachi today after being detained for several hours in Lahore and banned from the politically sensitive Punjab province.

To evade police restrictions on her movements she had disguised herself in an ankle-length burqa and taken a small child with her when she travelled on an overnight train to Lahore to attend a clandestine meeting of opposition leaders yesterday.

The ranks of their parties have been thinned by widespread arrests in the past few days as the military government of President Zia ul-Haq clamps down on political unrest.

Mrs Bhutto led a group of eight other political leaders in Lahore in planning a campaign to end martial law and force General Zia out of power. The politicians from the newly formed Movement for the Restoration of Democracy agreed that from Monday they would organize a day of national protest every week until their demands for parliamentary elections had been met.

Further South African cross-border foray feared before election

From Our Own Correspondent
Johannesburg, Feb 27

Western diplomats are concerned that South Africa may be contemplating another cross-border raid before the general election at the end of April, similar to the attack on African National Congress houses near Maputo, Mozambique, last month.

Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, has made the "total onslaught" against South Africa his theme for the election campaign. Almost every important speech by ministers contains an appeal for South Africans to unite in the face of the "Marxist threat" building up around the country's borders.

In a toughly-worded statement earlier this week, the Prime Minister, clearly trying to show white right-wingers that he can be as overkempt (conservative) as the best of them, said that South Africa would carry out more raids, if they were in the country's interests.

Nor would South Africa be deterred from taking such action by an increase in Soviet military support for Mozambique, he said. He was referring to a statement made at the weekend by Mr Valentin Vodiva, the Russian ambassador in Maputo, that the Soviet

Union would be sending more ships to Mozambique, soon to join the cruiser Aleksandr Suvorov, which is there on what is described as a "working visit".

"Threats by the Soviet Union will not stop South Africa from attacking African National Congress bases in Mozambique", he said.

Western diplomats fear that any further raids into Mozambique would push President Samora Machel's Government closer to the Soviet Union. Although the Russians are Mozambique's largest arms supplier and the two countries enjoy a treaty of friendship, there are no Soviet bases in Mozambique and President Machel has been careful to restrict the Soviet presence in his country.

Similarly, it is feared that further raids into southern Angola, ostensibly in pursuit of insurgents who belong to the South-West Africa People's Organization, would undermine Angola's present discreet overtures to the West.

The Angolan authorities have made it clear that they wish to reduce their military dependence on Russia, Cuba and East Germany, but feel unable to do so as long as South African forces continue to carry out raids from northern Namibia.

Boers celebrate famous victory over British

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Feb 27

When it comes to celebrating anniversaries of military victories, the South Africans have shown themselves every bit as enthusiastic as the British. The trouble (from the point of view of an Englishman living in South Africa) is that the British lost so many of the battles.

Two years ago it was the centenary of Isandhlwaza when the Zulus decimated a British force led by Lord Chelmsford. But at least honour on that occasion was subsequently restored at Rorke's Drift, an eventuality in the Anglo-Zulu war at Ulundi.

Today marked the centenary of the Battle of Majuba, when a small army of Boers roundly defeated a British force led by Major-General Sir George Colley, thereby bringing the first Anglo-Boer war to a swift (for the British) ignominious end.

Of the 375 British troops who scaled the heights of Majuba, on the Transvaal-Natal border, 285 were killed, wounded or captured, including General Colley.

Majuba is the sort of event which teachers of history in British schools used to gloss over when dealing with the achievements of the Victorian era. The vision of redcoats and British soldiers cutting away under the withering fire of Boer marksmen was not an edifying one for those of us brought up on Henry and Haggard.

But to South Africans, and particularly the Afrikaners, Majuba is every bit as glorious a victory as Waterloo. For the outcome of the battle proved that the Boers were able successfully to resist the might of the British Empire in Southern Africa.

The centenary of the battle is being commemorated by a

series of events spread over the three days. Mr Marais Viljoen, the State President, is to give a speech at Majuba Hill which will be preceded by prayers and the signing of patriotic songs by five choirs. For the past week torches have been carried by groups of the country to light a commemorative flame at the Majuba amphitheatre.

A commemorative set of stamps has been issued portraying scenes from the battle. The five-cent stamp, which is used for postage, shows the victorious Boers.

Last night the South African Military History Society organized a "march" up Majuba Hill, following the route taken by General Colley and his men on the evening of Feb 26, 1881.

It was, by all accounts, a gruelling climb. The marchers, one of the "marchers" complained that after scrambling through the bush for over three hours they suddenly came across a road near the top of the hill which certainly was not there 100 years ago.

The only four notes in the celebrations were struck a few days ago when it suddenly transpired that a series of statues commemorating the battle were made in, of all places, England. The statues, costing about £500 each and depicting the Boers, were designed by Mr Michael Suter, who is considered the finest sculptor of military figures in the world.

But some Afrikaners have complained that it was an insult that such sacred mementoes should have been made in the land of the former foe.

It will be another 19 years before the English can have their revenge, commemorating the British victory at Paardeberg in the second Anglo-Boer war.

John Crossland, page 14

Children dying daily in Ogaden camp

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Feb 27

Twelve to 15 children are dying each day at an isolated camp in the Ogaden desert of Ethiopia, an official of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees said today. He described it as "probably the worst camp in the world".

The official, just back from touring the area, said circumstances in Somalia refugee camps "threaten to become catastrophic". The region was experiencing the most severe drought for 30 years.

Executions soon for Liberian murderers

Monrovia, Feb 27.—Master Sergeant Samuel Doe, the Liberian Head of State, has announced that all convicted murderers will soon be executed, the Liberian news agency Lina reported. "Those to be found guilty of murder" would also be killed. Four convicted murderers are said to be held at Monrovia's central prison and seven others in Zwedru, 300 miles to the northeast.

The January and February figures are expected to be about 5,000. But if the target of resettling the majority of the boat people by June 30 this year is to be reached, there must be a resettlement rate of at least 10,000 people a month. Residual cases, as the United Nations, rather unflatteringly calls them, are problems in getting into resettlement countries not only because they come from less attractive social categories but also because the receiving countries organize their quotas for Vietnamese on a country-by-country, rather than a regional, basis.

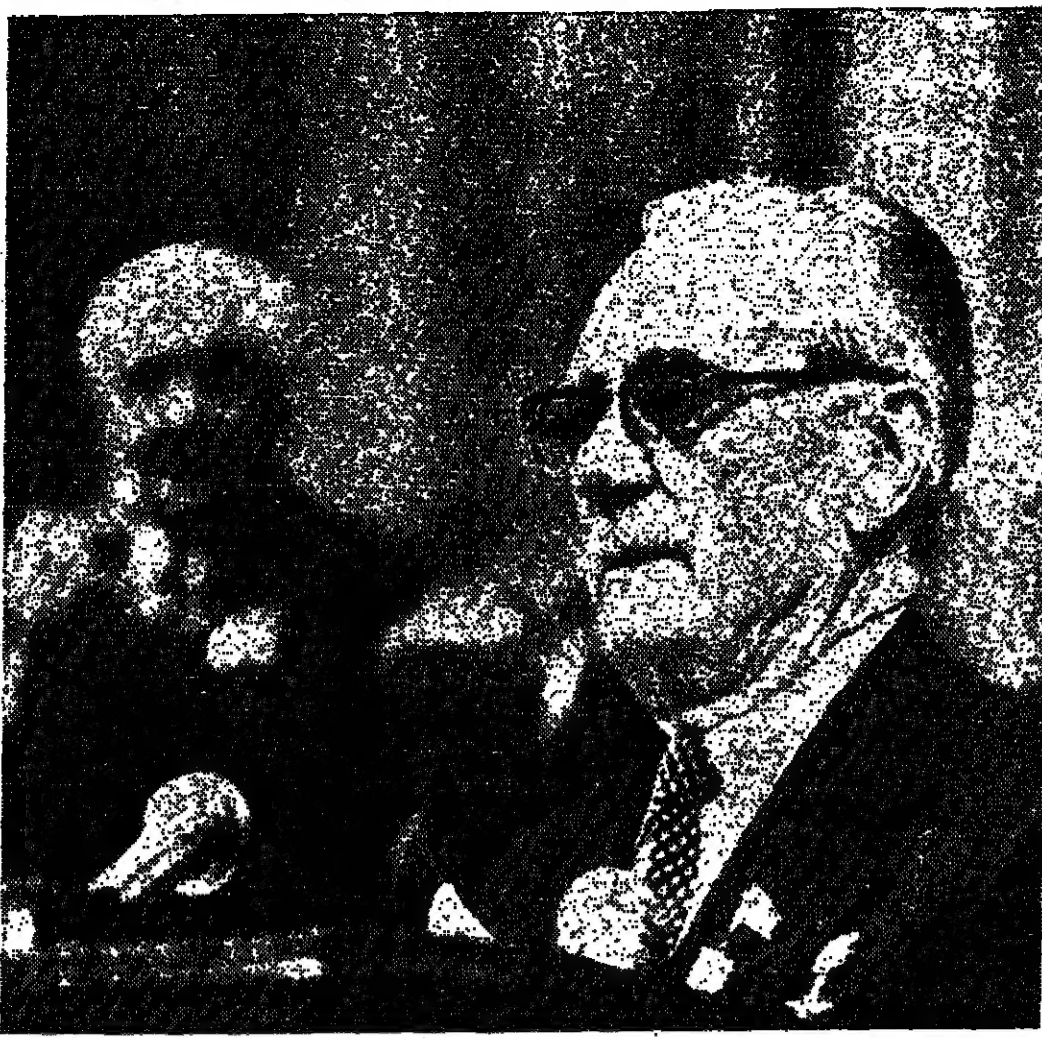
If there are not enough suitable candidates from Malaysia, for example, the quota from Malaysia is not filled for a given month and the available places are wasted.

The United Nations is planning a drive this year to find new homes for those particularly disadvantaged—the physically handicapped, who have to be accepted with their entire families, and the "socially handicapped". This latter category, as high as 60 per cent of the population in some camps, included young men between the ages of 16 and 25.

These young men are hard to

resettle because immigration officials believe they would bring social problems with them. Many of them have no family and have been brought up on the streets of Vietnamese cities during the war years, with all the attendant emotional instability and risk of criminality.

The escapees from Vietnam continue to take to the boats at a steady rate, most of them heading into the Gulf of Thailand in spite of pirate attacks, but the United Nations has high hopes for an orderly departure programme, with Vietnamese going direct from Viet-



Mr Tikhonov giving his report on the Soviet economy to the party congress.

Soviet-American trade stagnating

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb 27

The Soviet Union was ready to develop economic relations with the United States and mutual benefit, Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Prime Minister, declared today. But he said trade between the two countries was now stagnating or declining.

This was not the fault of the Russians, but the result of American policy which used trade for "unusually political ends foreign to the interests of equitable international co-operation".

"This was a clear reference to the grain embargo and ban on high technology sales imposed by President Carter after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan."

Delivering a detailed report to the party congress on the Soviet economy over the next five years, the Soviet Prime Minister said his country was in favour of "stable, mutually beneficial" ties with capitalist countries, and appreciated those businessmen who showed a "constructive approach" to questions of international economic co-operation.

He said the Russians also hoped to intensify their co-operation with fellow-members of Comecon, the Soviet trading

block, especially in such fields as nuclear energy, fuel supplies, heavy engineering, agricultural machinery and mining. Soviet planners had been told to press for more foreign economic ties in order to "economise on labour and material resources, speed up technical progress and get a gain in time".

The leit-motiv of Mr Tikhonov's report was that the Soviet economy had to develop more intensively over the next five years. There had to be a significant cutback in waste and the squandering of raw materials, greater returns on fixed assets, a more responsible and efficient use of machinery and better planning and management. His report amplified the slogan in President Brezhnev's lengthy speech on Monday: "The economy has to be economical".

The Prime Minister, who is 75 and formally took over from Mr Alexei Kosygin last autumn shortly before Mr Kosygin's death, denied that the Soviet economy was in a crisis, but admitted that productivity had to be urgently improved.

He did not give many statistics in his report, but did give some strikingly ambitious figures for improvements in the supply of food, especially meat, and consumer goods,

which are now to be the country's main priority.

In the next five years, he said, the output of meat should go up by 40 per cent, butter by 25 per cent, vegetable oil by more than 50 per cent, fabrics by 22 per cent, knitted goods by about 30 per cent, leather footwear by 11 per cent and household goods by at least 40 per cent.

He called for better standards in all consumer goods, and said it should be a matter of pride for those producing them to make good and attractive products "which bring pleasure to people's homes and raise their spirits".

He had harsh words for the present level of Soviet management, and said there had to be a thorough change, including "the remoulding of the very psychology of managerial staff".

His report, which calls for vast improvements in almost every sector of the economy, echoes persistent calls recently for greater efficiency, responsibility and initiative. It suggests the good life might be found around the corner for the Soviet consumer, but only on condition that he works considerably harder and more productively than he has done so far.

For two reasons: a Khmer Rouge headed by the prince has a good chance of retaining the Kampuchean seat at the United Nations; and any credible anti-Vietnamese force must harness the military power of the Khmer Rouge.

The prince has a deep revulsion for the Khmer Rouge, who were responsible for the deaths of several members of his family. But he surprisingly agreed to lead a united Khmer front, on several conditions, earlier this month.

In his cable today he said that his change of heart was due to "acts of sabotage" in France by followers of Mr Son Sann, leader of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front. They had, he said, declined the open political war "on him".

Singapore puts restraint on foreign pilots

From Our Own Correspondent
Singapore, Feb 27

The Singapore Government has deregistered the union of the Singapore Airlines pilots, which was involved in a bitter industrial dispute last year. The Singapore Airlines Pilots' Association was recently fined for last year's illegal work-to-rule and some thought that would be the end of the matter, despite earlier threats to deregister it.

The announcement of the deregistration coincided with news that the union was about to sign a new collective agreement with the management of Singapore Airlines. The union is not going to appeal and the way is open for the formation of a new pilots' union with a new constitution.

The Government clearly believes that the considerable number of foreign pilots working for the airline have been an undesirable influence, and foreign pilots will apparently be allowed to become only associate members when the new union is formed.

In the unique labour atmosphere of Singapore, it is possible for a union that has just been deregistered to sign a fresh collective agreement with the airline management. The new union will effectively be the same organization, perhaps with largely the same officials but deprived of its original constitution and fully fledged foreign members.

Informing the union of its deregistration, the Government said the pilots' association had been used, and was likely to be used again, against the interests in people working in the industry.

The reformed union will have to satisfy the Government it is not under foreign influence. If foreigners are only associate members, they will be prevented from becoming office-holders—but Singaporeans have held the union's most senior executive posts in the past.

The Government maintains that the interests of foreign air crew working for the airline will continue to be catered for, although foreign pilots will plainly take some convincing.

One foreign pilot, who said

deregistration had come as no surprise to him, predicted that in future they would have no influence on the collective agreement which they had to sign under their contracts.

"It's hardly fair for us to be bound by something over which we have no influence," he said.

The pilot added that he would bide his time until he could find another job, and he believed that many of the other foreign pilots felt the same way.

When the illegal work-to-rule was at its height last year, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister, said he would close down Singapore Airlines unless there was a return to normal working. He gave a warning that any air crew stepping down while on a long-range international flight would be dismissed immediately.

The work-to-rule stemmed from dissatisfaction at the progress of negotiations on a new agreement. The Prime Minister was subsequently critical of the airline's management, and one official said that labour relations at the airline were "medieval" at the time.

Work is now being done on a new list of candidates for resettlement, the initial batch of six flights from Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) having ended in January with the last of 4,554 Vietnamese flying out to the United States and France.

There are 20,000 places on offer in 25 countries for Vietnamese wanting to leave directly, and 30,000 Vietnamese with the possibility of getting exit visas. The difficulty, as always, is the people the Vietnamese are willing to let go are not always those suitable for resettlement.

PARLIAMENT, Feb 27, 1981

Better arrangements for collecting levy on horserace betting

House of Commons
The maintenance of the levy was the subject of a debate in the House of Commons today. Mr Charles Morrison (Devizes, C) said when he successfully moved the second reading of the Horserace Betting Levy Bill. The Bill is designed to enable better arrangements to be made for the collection of the levy.

He said the Horserace Betting Levy Board was charged with assessing the levy to be paid by bookmakers on betting on horses. Each levy scheme related to a particular year and liability to pay levy arose from the assessment of bookmakers' turnover. But the levy turnover could not be assessed until the end of a year's trading.

To eliminate an abuse, it was agreed in 1976 that the bookmaker's liability should be assessed in relation to turnover in the current levy year. This change took effect in April 1979. About one third of all bookmakers have generally made contributions in advance of assessment.

This voluntary system of advance payment had made it possible to continue to pay the levy. Under it, the levy board could never be certain it would receive advance payments. This made it difficult for the board to budget properly and there was the constant worry it would have to undertake expensive commercial borrowing to maintain its cash.

The Bill would enable provision to be made for a scheme for payments of the levy to be made during the levy year. He understood the bookmakers were in general agreement with the Bill, but he was not sure bookmakers contributed, during the course of the year instead of just those who were prepared to make advance payments.

Mr Clement Freud (Isle of Ely, L) said the Bill legalised something which bookmakers voluntarily did. It would be appropriate to see if the bookmakers' representation on the distributive body was sufficient.

Mr Eddowes (Edmunds, C) said the lifeblood of racing was prize money. Prize money available in France and America was much higher than in this country for the classics.

He called for better standards in all consumer goods, and said it should be a matter of pride for those producing them to make good and attractive products "which bring pleasure to people's homes and raise their spirits".

He had harsh words for the present level of Soviet management, and said there had to be a thorough change, including "the remoulding of the very psychology of managerial staff".

His report, which calls for vast improvements in almost every sector of the economy, echoes persistent calls recently for greater efficiency, responsibility and initiative. It suggests the good life might be found around the corner for the Soviet consumer, but only on condition that he works considerably harder and more productively than he has done so far.

For two reasons: a Khmer Rouge headed by the prince has a good chance of retaining the Kampuchean seat at the United Nations; and any credible anti-Vietnamese force must harness the military power of the Khmer Rouge.

The prince has a deep revulsion for the Khmer Rouge, who were responsible for the deaths of several members of his family. But he surprisingly agreed to lead a united Khmer front, on several conditions, earlier this month.

In his cable today he said that his change of heart was due to "acts of sabotage" in France by followers of Mr Son Sann, leader of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front. They had, he said, declined the open political war "on him".

The Singapore Government has deregistered the union of the Singapore Airlines pilots, which was involved in a bitter industrial dispute last year. The Singapore Airlines Pilots' Association was recently fined for last year's illegal work-to-rule and some thought that would be the end of the matter, despite earlier threats to deregister it.

The announcement of the deregistration coincided with news that the union was about to sign a new collective agreement with the management of Singapore Airlines. The union is not going to appeal and the way is open for the formation of a new pilots' union with a new constitution.

The Government clearly believes that the considerable number of foreign pilots working for the airline have been an undesirable influence, and foreign pilots will apparently be allowed to become only associate members when the new union is formed.

In the unique labour atmosphere of Singapore, it is possible for a union that has just been deregistered to sign a fresh collective agreement with the airline management. The new union will effectively be the same organization, perhaps with largely the same officials but deprived of its original constitution and fully fledged foreign members.

Informing the union of its deregistration, the Government said the pilots' association had been used, and was likely to be used again, against the interests in people working in the industry.

The reformed union will have to satisfy the Government it is not under foreign influence. If foreigners are only associate members, they will be prevented from becoming office-holders—but Singaporeans have held the union's most senior executive posts in the past.

The Government maintains that the interests of foreign air crew working for the airline will continue to be catered for, although foreign pilots will plainly take some convincing.

One foreign pilot, who said deregistration had come as no surprise to him, predicted that in future they would have no influence on the collective agreement which they had to sign under their contracts.

"It's hardly fair for us to be bound by something over which we have no influence," he said.

The pilot added that he would bide his time until he could find another job, and he believed that many of the other foreign pilots felt the same way.

When the illegal work-to-rule was at its height last year, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister, said he would close down Singapore Airlines unless there was a return to normal working. He gave a warning that any air crew stepping down while on a long-range international flight would be dismissed immediately.

The work-to-rule stemmed from dissatisfaction at the progress of negotiations on a new agreement. The Prime Minister was subsequently critical of the airline's management, and one official said that labour relations at the airline were "medieval" at the time.

Work is now being done on a new list of candidates for resettlement, the initial batch of six flights from Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) having ended in January with the last of 4,554 Vietnamese flying out to the United States and France.

There are 20,000 places on offer in 25 countries for Vietnamese wanting to leave directly, and 30,000 Vietnamese with the possibility of getting exit visas. The difficulty, as always, is the people the Vietnamese are willing to let go are not always those suitable for resettlement.

The only practicable approach to the problem appears to be through clearing the air of concerns about the dangers, principally to the health of those who misuse it. That is a matter for the Secretary of State for Social Services and for Wales, who will, with the Prime Minister's approval, take over co-ordinating responsibility in future in England and

If racing was to flourish and continue to provide jobs, generate exports, and provide the Government with large revenues, prize money must move from keep pace with inflation. It needed to be greatly increased. Dr Shirley Summerskill, an Opposition spokesman on racing affairs (Hemel Hempstead, Lab) said they supported the Bill.

She trusted that money would be spent as much on facilities for average racers as had been spent on new grandstands for wealthy spectators. There was some concern that too much levy money was put into prizes for top class races at the expense of racing and breeding. Only 3 per cent of the money went to veterinary science.

The Home Secretary would use his influence to encourage the Jockey Club to develop a membership representative of a wider cross-section of people.

The bookmakers' committee wanted four safeguards written into the Bill and the Opposition would put them down as amendments to the committee stage.

The first was that the scheme should not require any payment on account to be made before completion of the relevant levy period. Second, a bookmaker would be able to appeal against the provisions of a notice of determination throughout the year.

The third amendment would ensure that the three Government-appointed members would have to consult with the bookmakers' committee when an individual's determination was estimated by the committee before the start of the levy year.

Fourth, a provision would enable the levy board to spread notices of determination over the year in the light of changing circumstances.

Mr Bruce George (Walsall, South, Lab) said he wished that some of the money available for the levy was transferred to greyhound racing for a similar scheme.

Sir Timothy Kitson (Richmond, Yorks, C) said that it was surely wrong to take the money from those courses with large audiences.

Burden should be shared

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary (Penzance and Borden, C) said that it was a valuable Bill, which he hoped would be passed. He said it could have found time to introduce the Bill or to include its provisions in a comprehensive package of measures to be introduced. The Government fully supported the objectives of the Bill.

He strongly supported the racing industry (he said) and its part in our national life. The Bill should enjoy the support of all who love racing and wish to see it part in the economic and social life of the country.

The aim of the Bill was to ensure that the racing industry continued to be able to rely on income from the betting levy and that the machinery for collecting the levy was as efficient as possible. It employed nearly 100,000 people.

The Bill did not apply to the Tote which made a contribution to racing under the present scheme which had increased from about £400,000 in 1976-77 to more than £1.5m in the past financial year.

Under the Bill, it would fall to the Home Secretary, as it had in the past, to determine a levy scheme which was not agreed. That had been done on many occasions and not at all since he became Home Secretary.

It would still be for the levy board to decide the details of the scheme and to collect the levy. A levy scheme involving advance payment of the levy had been operating voluntarily for two years.

The scheme, however, had only worked because a relatively small number of bookmakers had agreed to make advance payments of the levy. The levy board and the board had made it worth their while by paying interest on the advance payments. In 1979-80, £30,000,000 of the levy had been paid in advance.

These voluntary arrangements (he said) had meant that over the past two years, the levy board had been able to finance on the goodwill of a limited number of bookmaking firms willing to make advance payments of the levy. They had been bearing the burden.

He welcomed the undertaking which he was sure would remove any fears which bookmakers might have about the new levy scheme. He hoped that the levy board would be able to use the increased flexibility provided by the Bill to demand payments in advance of business done.

He welcomed the undertaking which he was sure would remove any fears which bookmakers might have about the new levy scheme. He hoped that the levy board would be able to use the increased flexibility provided by the Bill to demand payments in advance of business done.

This was something it would be appropriate for the Bill to permit the levy board to do. The levy board, the sponsor, had it in mind to introduce an amendment waiving the committee stage. The Government would support such a position.

By strengthening and extending arrangements by which British racing financed itself, the Bill would ensure the continued prosperity of an industry which played an important role in the national way of life and gave great pleasure to many people.

The Bill was read a second time.

Scotland's image abroad

There was no substitute for a properly organized national promotion of the Scottish scene abroad, Mr Gordon Wilson (Dundee, East, Scot, Nat) said when he moved the second reading of the Development of Tourism (Scotland) Bill.

He said that at present responsibility for the promotion of Scotland for the purpose of attracting tourists was vested in the Scottish Tourist Board.

The Scottish Tourist Board was only enabled to project Scotland within the United Kingdom. It had been unable to project Scotland abroad and to have more influence in the way in which Scotland was portrayed. The object of the Bill was to give the board such powers.

Mr Ian Sproat (Aberdeen, South, C) said the Bill would increase public awareness and cost the taxpayer more money. It was typical of the Scottish National Party and

had no regard to the consequences the Bill would have for the rest of the United Kingdom.

Mr Gordon Wilson (Dundee, East, Scot, Nat)

Records of the month

An exuberant and volatile old soak

Verdi: Falstaff. Taddel / Panerai / Karajan. Philips 6769 (3 discs).
 Panerai / Karajan. HMV SLS 5211 (2 discs).
 Rossini: L'italiana in Algeri. Horne / Battistini / Ramey / Solisti Veneti / Scimone. Erato STU 71394 (3 discs).

Lortzing: Der Widschütz. Rotenberg / Wunderlich / Prey / Bayerische State Opera Orchestra / Heger. EMI C 149-23 5346 (3 discs).

Frei and Scotti in Duet. Decca SXL 6970. KSX 6970
 Forget about singing Falstaff until you are fifty, an international baritone said to me a few weeks ago: by that time the Verdi bel canto roles will be moving out of your reach and you have the perfect part for the last stage of the career.

Giuseppe Taddel, who takes the title role in the Philips recording of Falstaff issued this month, is 64. He has been appearing in Verdi's opera for a good number of years now, and there is no sign of him hanging up his pewee pot and retiring from the Garter. Indeed Karajan's confidence in Taddel's staying power is such that he has cast him for the new Falstaff, which opens this summer's Salzburg Festival.

The Philips issue is an almost total reflection of that promised production, which Karajan himself will direct as well as conduct, and the singers are identical. And therein lies both the strength and weakness of the set. The music cast assembled is wholly admirable: Heinz Zednik and Piero de Palma create immediate and sharply edged characters as Bardolito and Caluso. Francesco Ayra's very tenor makes him the most winning of Fentons; and there is Rolando Panerai, who has been singing Ford for a quarter of a century now, sounding indestructible as Taddel himself.

Taddel's Falstaff is exuberant and volatile, overjoyed at the faintest prospect of success and dispirited in defeat, until he has a glass of sack to bring him round. He is at his finest in the closing pages of the score when Falstaff and his dissonant friends forgive his tormentors. The serenity of Taddel's singing here is in every way worthy of Verdi's own farewell to opera. Earlier, aided and encouraged by Karajan, he

uses quite a number of vocal tricks, including excessive falsetto, to get the music under his belt. Reaction to the Taddel Falstaff must depend very much on what the individual listener demands from the part: rich characterization or a 'forceful baritone'.

The female cast by the side of the male line-up is dismal and some of the casting distinctly bizarre. The only possible conclusion is that Karajan has his eye on a future film of the Salzburg production. Christa Ludwig sounds sadly out of voice as Mistress Quickly; Janet Perry can hardly be counted among the best Nanettas available at the moment; Trudelliese Schmidt makes no impression as Meg; and Kabaivanska, by far the best of the comers, lacks humour as Alice.

There remains Karajan's own contribution, which has extraordinary dramatic movement. Everything is taken to extremes: never has the search in the Ford household been so helter-skelter, never has the moonlight in Windsor Forest shone more exquisitely, never has Falstaff been tortured with such relish. Yet despite these excesses, marvelously realized in Philips's digital recording, there comes through a compelling enthusiasm for the work.

The approach, then, is geared for the expanses of the large Festspielhaus in Salzburg, whereas Karajan's earlier Falstaff recording was a much more intimate affair. EMI, never averse to setting a booby trap in the path of their competitors, have just reissued it on two records. In comparison with Philips's opulent presentation it looks like an economy package, but the rewards are considerable. Gobbi's Falstaff is much more of a piece than that of Taddel as well as being considerably stronger vocally. Panerai is again the Ford and Alva the immaculate Fenton. But where the EMI set mainly lacks the charm of the Philips, the Philips set lacks the vocal power of the EMI.

Two imported sets this month from Coifer could well help fill gaps on the record shelves. The issue of L'italiana in Algeri coincides precisely



The archetypal Falstaff, from L'illustrazione italiana, 1893

with the revival of Rossini's opera at the Met in New York, with the same two highly accomplished ladies leading the cast: Mariya Horne as the Italian girl in question, who is more than a match for any Algerian, and Kathleen Battle as Elvira. And a very lively couple they are. Samuel Ramey is a fine, sonorous Mustafá, but the Lindoro is weakly cast: the Met's new discovery, Rockwell Blake, would have been a much better choice. Claudio Scimone is the dapper conductor of what sounds to be a small band of players; the additional arias which Rossini wrote for Isabella and Lindoro are included on the final side of the set.

An engaging issue, then, even if it does not efface the Giulini recording of many years ago with Simoniano. Lortzing's Der Widschütz was recorded back in 1964, although the sound quality is scarcely inferior to L'italiana. No one much cares to champion Lortzing in this country, apart from the John Lewis Partnership from time to time. Perhaps the performance of the late Fritz Wunderlich here, with his high partner of the time, Hermann Prey, will encourage a change of heart. The songs may be simple and the sentiments simpler still,

but the whole score goes with great brio under Robert Heger, who was approaching veteran status when he made the record.

Mirella Freni and Renata Scotti are not as obvious singing combinations, but they work together remarkably well on a Decca recital disc whose main item is "Mira, O Norma", with Freni as the Adalgisa. Just to make sure that honours are even, Scotti sings the Countess in the "Sull'aria" duet from Figaro. The orchestral accompaniment is rapid.

John Higgins

Mozartian joy unconfined

Mozart: La finta giardiniera. Sukis / Conwell / Fassbender / Thloff / T. Moser / Cesare / McDaniell / Salzburg Mozarteum / Hager. DG Z740 234 (4 discs).

Mozart: Idomeneo. Yakar / Palmer / Schmidt / Hollweg / Zurich Opera / Harnoncourt. Telarc 6.35547 (4 discs).

Wagner: Parsifal. Vajovic / Hofmann / Van Dam / Moll / Berlin PO / Karajan. DG Z741 002 (5 discs).

The great comic operas of Mozart, from Die Entführung aus dem Serail onwards, did not emerge prodigiously, like Athenes, adult and fully armed from the head of Zeus. There had been practice efforts and one of them, La finta giardiniera (written for Munich when he was 19), already finds him experimenting in the mixture of comic and serious situations and music such as we acclaim in the mature masterpieces. He composed it as a *dramma giocoso* in Italian, with sung recitatives, but the manuscript of the first act disappeared soon after, and posterity was left only with a German adaptation and spoken dialogue. Those of us who sensed that it could only be appreciated properly if it were now, as the Italian musician would attempt to supply the missing recitatives, using the extant original text, as set by Giuseppe Anfossi.

Now a copy of the whole Mozart score in Italian, with the missing recitatives, has turned up in a Moravian library, and been published as part of the New Mozart Edition. Leopold Hager, of the Salzburg Mozarteum, was the first to take advantage of the new discovery: he conducted a concert performance of the work which Deutsche Grammophon at once recorded, and the records, issued this month, have captivated me completely. It is almost as if a divine light had raised the Colossus of Rhodes from the bottom of the sea. The music that we knew in German sounds infinitely more stylish in Italian, if only because the connecting recitatives, almost now there, and excellent Mozart they are, including those formerly lost for the first act—Serpetta's annoyed intrusions on her employer's flirtation with Sandrina, for example, even more so than the latter's faints on learning that her old lover, Belfiore, has arrived, a recitative with orchestral accompaniment and striking harmony. The Salzburg performance is decently cast, performed with lively spirit. Some grammatical

graces may be missed, but the performance avoids the heavy, stilted, and over-the-top earlier readings of Mozart's early heroic operas, and the Italian pronunciation shows a marked improvement—is it because Ezio, di Cesare, sings the part of the elderly comic suitor and governor of the district? He understands the role to a nicety, and is strongly supported by Lilian Sukis as the haughty serious lover, and Thomas Moser in the curiously univalent part of Count Belfiore, now a hero, now a clown, excellent in the aria where he boasts of his glorious ancestry, likewise. Brigitte Fassbender in the castrato role of Ramiro, and Jutta-Renate Thloff as a proto-Despina. Barry McDaniell is inclined to exaggerate the clowning of the jolly manservant, and Julia Conwell makes a shrill, noisy Sandrina, though musically. Such shortcomings are as nothing compared with the joy of encountering another major Mozart comic opera. I cannot wait to experience it in the theatre, preferably at Glyndebourne, though I doubt if Charles Mackerras will be pining to bring it on stage—to say nothing of Sir Peter Hall.

The New Mozart Edition supplies the text for a new recording of Idomeneo, by Nicholas Harnoncourt, in charge, and opts for the text of the Munich premiere, rejecting some of the most famous music (Electra's "Torna la pace" for instance) but making a consistent approach, and characteristically attempting a stylish sound for the orchestral music (but strings and muted such as Mozart mentions in his letters), with special care for recitatives and modulation. The results are strikingly fresh, pungent, bright and silvery, by comparison with other sets which sound more mellow and romantic, though Harnoncourt takes a warm and dramatic view of the work, especially thrilling in the temple scene of the third act.

We do have a soprano Idamante, Trudelliese Schmidt, whose only failing is that her expressive voice sounds too like that of the Ilia, Rachel Yakar, outstanding herself in all of her three arias. Arbaces is given both his arias for the first time on record in recent years; Kurt Moll, though a little out of step, though his voice is too unsteady to do justice to the florid divisions. Felicity Palmer is the Electra, ready for the serenity of her second act music as well as the temerarious elsewhere, though her *gruppetti* are

vague. In the title role Werner Holweg's strong, heroic tenor lies up to the demands of "Fuor del mar" (the first more taxing version which, surely, was not sung in the premiere because the elderly singer could not manage it), and rises to the crisis of the temple scene, but lacks character elsewhere, compared with, say, George Shirley in the Philips set. Harnoncourt surprisingly allows too many cadences with blunt endings, though the edition carefully suggests how appoggiatura may be taken; only Robert Tear, as the High Priest, shows concern for them. The ballet music at the end is included, but not the missing material which Harnoncourt, in his preface, promises for an extra disc. I still prefer the Philips/Davis set as an interpretation of the opera, but this new one has unique virtues, including clean, perspicuous digitally-recorded sound.

When Herbert von Karajan directed his own production of Wagner's Parsifal at last year's Salzburg Easter Festival, it seemed some sort of ultimate coup d'état, the event which he founded 15 years ago. In the theatre I was less than content with it all, but by then he had committed his interpretation to disc, though it only now reaches the record shops. All agreed that the cast was splendid, especially Kurt Moll's endearing, noble, Gutsmuths, an object lesson in Wagnerian bel canto, and José van Dam's secure, sturdy Amfortas (here imperious in German towards the end). His Yugoslav Kundry (and Bayreuth's) turns squally above the stage, but woe the ear as she descends the scale: hers is a thrilling interpretation throughout.

When Peter Dinklage went to Peter Hofman, ideal on the stage, but unhelpfully served by the microphone, as other records of his have suggested, the bloom is removed from the warm heroic tenor voice. It is a shame that Karajan did not insist upon the great Parsifal of our day, his memorable Tristan of a few years back, Jon Vickers, who has not recorded the part. The new DG set, recorded digitally with many-channelled equipment, so that Karajan could supervise the final balance himself, has the most consistently beautiful sound of all, and a reading of outstanding lyrical eloquence. In dramatic potency, sometimes even serene vitality, the new DG set is a masterpiece. Some details of casting, though, Karajan, in his Berlin church, has the preferable acoustic.

William Mann

Liszt sensitively characterized

Liszt: Songs. Baker/Parsons. EMI ASD 3906; TC-ASD 3906.
 Joseph Kislop: Italian arias, Scottish and English songs. Rubini RS 308 (2 discs).

Janáček: Quartets Nos 1 and 2. Medici String Quartet. EMI IQS 1433.
 Janáček: String Quartets. Smetana Quartet. Supraphon 4 11 1995.
 Janáček: Piano and Chamber Works. Crossley/London Sinfonietta/Gabrieli String Quartet. Decca D 2373 (5 discs).

So subdued, so hushed for the most part is Janet Baker in 12 of Liszt's more sombre songs that she seems at times almost in awe of this comparatively little-performed and little-recorded music. Sometimes it goes too far: "Die drei Zigeuner" is a little pale in its characterization; the voice is consistently and disappointingly raw in the higher register; and Geoffrey Parsons's at times understated accompaniments are given a dryish recording. But for me all this is compensated by the sheer beauty and sensitivity of interpretation: the breadth of characterization in voice and accompaniment of "Die Lorelei"; the glowing mezzo voice vowels, matched exquisitely by the piano's luminous tone in "Du bist wie eine Blume"; the even, moving simplicity of "Freudvoll und Leidvoll".

He was admired by Puccini, sang in *Bohème* opposite Motta, coached Jussi Björling and was the bridge between Birgit Nilsson and Kirsten Flagstad, passing on to Nilsson what he had learnt from Flagstad's teacher, Joseph Hislop. The Scottish tenor who was still teaching until a year before his death in 1977 at the age of 93, is commemorated in a two-disc Rubini set which fills the gap left by the deletion of their

earlier Hislop recording. The unusually consistent balance of strength and tone throughout his entire range, the vast distance stretching like silk elastic between fortissimo and the quietest *mezzo voce*, his seemingly spontaneous musical and verbal intelligence, sharpened by a highly individual and immediate expressive sensibility, are revealed in arias by Massenet, Verdi and Puccini (including *Manon Lescaut* in Swedish). But perhaps most effective is the seriousness of musical and expressive purpose he brings to the Scottish songs, wrapped here, alas, in the whisky-soaked taint of the orchestral accompaniment from the film *The Lower of Robert Burns*. It is a pity that Rubini did not use the alternative and, I think, finer versions of, for instance, "Flow gently, sweet Afton" and the *Edinburg Love Lull* that I still possess on old 78s; but they must be congratulated on being readily available, on comparatively quiet transfers, so much of so rare a voice.

Although more and more of it is being played, there are still comparatively few recordings of Janáček's chamber music. Two new recordings of the quartets, and one from 1978 in a new and timely boxed set of piano and chamber music, redress the balance more than adequately. Each one, in its own way, a fine performance, and here an evaluative rather than descriptive criticism can come only from a purely personal response.

In the first quartet "The Kneuter, Sonata" the Medici Quartet's playing has a bright lyrical beauty of tone, the dynamic ebb and flow not so precisely detailed and controlled as by the Smetana Quartet, their second movement

flightier, their third warmer but less urgent. The Smetana Quartet wear their hearts less visibly on their sleeves, but they best no less strongly for that. Highly strung, secretive, the emotion rarely contained and intensely accumulated, for me they re-create more movingly Janáček's combination of intimacy and self-dramatization. "Intimate Letters", the second quartet, was one of the first works the Medici played together as students: they make Janáček's emotional confession in the last year of his life more virile, spontaneous and strongly projected, whereas the Smetana's performance gains in some rare and beautiful timbres, a sense of awe as well as gaiety, of true horror as well as joy in the third movement.

The Gabrieli Quartet, in the Decca box, are comparatively more reflective, more relaxed, creating much sheer beauty of sound in readings which for me seem nevertheless not quite so deeply perused and therefore not so deeply moving. Everything else in the box is newly recorded to a very high standard: there are fresh, colourful performances of two works from Janáček's final period, the *Concerto and Capriccio*, an exploratory reading of *A Tale for cello and piano*, a valuable if not perfect performance of the generally unavailable and delightfully whimsical nonsense rhymes, *Aklada* (with some of the original drawings which inspired them included in the accompanying booklet).

In many ways most rewarding of all there is the piano music: "On an overgrown path", Theme and Variations, the Sonata, "In the mist" and the tiny exquisite "Recollection", all played by Paul Crossley with intelligence, sensitivity and mature insight.

Hilary Finch

The mysterious mirror proffered by Maeterlinck

Fauré, Sibelius, Schoenberg: Pelléas et Mélisande. Rotterdam PO/Zinnman. Philips 6769 045 (2 discs).

Strauss: Don Juan. Till Eulenspiegel, Tod und Verklärung. Vienna PO/Previn. HMV ASD 3913; TC-ASD 3913.
 Mendelssohn: Symphony No 4. Schumann: Symphony No 4. Berlin PO/Tennstedt. HMV ASD 3963; TC-ASD 3963.
 Brahms: Violin Concerto. Hoelscher/North German Radio SO/Tennstedt. HMV ASD 3973; TC-ASD 3973.
 Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto/Bruch: Violin Concerto No 1. Minz, Chicago SO/Abbado. DG 2531 304; TC-ASD 304.
 Spohr: Clarinet Concerto No 1.2. Pay/London Sinfonietta/Atherton. Argo ZRG 920.
 Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 2. Rostropovich. HMV ASD 3973; TC-ASD 3973.
 Bartók: Piano Concertos Nos 2-3. Ashkenazy/LPO/Solti. Decca SXL 6937; KSX 6937.
 Bartók: Concerto for Orchestra, Two Pictures. Berlin PO/Maazel. DG 2331 269; TC-ASD 269.
 Falla: The Three-Cornered Hat. Saites Nos 1-2/Ravi: Rhapsodie espagnole/Chabrier: España. Philadelphia Orchestra/Muti. HMV ASD 3902; TC-ASD 3902.

Falla: The Three-Cornered Hat. Saites Nos 1-2/Ravi: Rhapsodie espagnole/Chabrier: España. Los Angeles PO/Lopez-Cobos. Decca SXL 6956; KSX 6956.

Why Maeterlinck? The new Philips issue of music for *Pelléas et Mélisande* makes one wonder

again that the Belgian poet's nebulous dramas should have attracted so many outstanding composers around the turn of the century. Within a dozen years of its first production, in 1893, *Pelléas et Mélisande* had become the subject not only of Debussy's opera but also of the three works recorded here: the incidental music by Fauré and Sibelius, and the symphonic poem by Schoenberg. No other literary work, surely, has had so much of an influence in its own time.

David Zinnman's performances are, as they should be, acutely sensitive to the personal qualities of the three composers. Fauré's music captures most nearly the far-off delicacy and melancholic charm of the play, not least in the song "The Three Blind Sisters" which is here added to the concert suite and beautifully sung by Jill Gomez. Sibelius gives us a later-day saga with grim castle walls and ominous seas, whereas Schoenberg dives into the violent, fateful passions of the participants: his score is played with exactly the right manic intensity and fierce pressure. All three have *Mélisande* dying in D minor, but otherwise the views of the play are very different. What Maeterlinck offered them, it becomes clear, was not a text for interpretation but a mirror in which they could see themselves.

One of the few musical contemporaries to escape Maeterlinck's influence was Richard Strauss, though it was he who suggested *Pelléas* to Schoenberg as a subject, and it was in his tone poems that Schoenberg looked for models in composition.

posing his own; one is neatly reminded of this by André Previn's brilliantly characterized performances of *Don Juan*, *Till Eulenspiegel* and *Tod und Verklärung*. Digital sound takes Strauss's scoring to a new level of glamour, but it is Previn's wholehearted belief in the music that keeps it from vulgar. The climax of *Tod und Verklärung*, so difficult to get right, is for once grand and thrilling, not just cheap.

Klaus Tennstedt is another to benefit from HMV's vivid digital technique. There is a startling presence to his recordings of two fourth symphonies, Mendelssohn's *Symphony*, as well as a startling dynamism felt as an urgent tug in the bass. There is not much sunny lightness in this version of the "Italian" symphony, and though the work responds remarkably well to being treated for serious and dramatic, it is the Schumann that gains the most from Tennstedt's challenge. Where Mendelssohn's sound world is drastically altered, Schumann's is vigorously inhabited, and his symphony is shown as the marvel of expressive and structural wholeness it is.

Also from Tennstedt, this time with his own Hamburg orchestra, comes a revelatory performance of the Brahms Violin Concerto in which all the comfortableness is cut away to show the currents of soaring, almost neurotic emotion. Ulf Hoelscher, the soloist, produces a lean tone and often a wavering vibrato that brings out the anxiety in the work, and he uses the Kreisler cadenza to add

to the feeling of virtuosity under extreme stress. Even the finale, with the woodwind bringing a shrill edge to the orchestral tutti, is disarmingly hysterical in its ebullience.

For those who prefer sweet sentiment there is Salomo Minz's first recording of concertos by Mendelssohn and Bruch. One can hardly blame him for luxuriating in the Bruch G minor, of course, but I find his moody indulgence in the Mendelssohn prelude and belittling Claudio Abbado seems nonplussed, reduced to banging home a firm but unfeeling support.

Much more stylish performances of early romantic concertos are to be heard from Antony Pay and the London Sinfonietta under David Atherton in the first two of Spohr's four for clarinet. The second, in E flat, is a splendid outgoing piece whose slow movement includes amazing flights into the clarinet's stratosphere while the first is more inward and searching, as befits its key of C minor. But, whether the music is agile or sombre, Pay quite rightly makes the solo line sound like refined song.

Beethoven's artifice only becomes apparent when one considers the piano concertos in the same keys that Beethoven was writing at roughly the same time: the "Emperor" and No 3, of which Radu Lupu adds a commanding performance to his earlier coupling of the first two concertos. Again Minz and the Israel Philharmonic provide an unassuming foil for cultivated

and expressive piano playing, the solo instrument presented with uncanny accuracy by the digital recording.

Ashkenazy manages with lower-lit to give a winning account of himself in the second and third concertos, but I feel he is simply too sharp a musician for No 2. A thinner test and a more brittle attack are needed here, as well as an orchestral accompaniment less inclined to point up particularities of texture and mood. Both Solti and Ashkenazy are more at home with Bartók's later style, joined there by an equally expressive Lorin Maazel in the Concerto for Orchestra. In this work, though, I would definitely prefer a more streamlined approach, and, despite the fact that Maazel includes an appealing account of the early Two Pictures, it might be best to wait in hope for brighter releases in this Bartók war.

If Bartók is the music of Hungary, then Chabrier's *España* is undoubtedly the most brilliant exploit in musical Hispanicism, a view confirmed by two new recordings with almost identical programmes. In every way Minz's is to be preferred. It is a pity that instead of Lopez-Cobos's Rimsky-Korsakov, it has all the diamond lustre of digital sound; and it is so free with verve, sheen and panache as to make its rival seem pale and static. When French composers make the most Spanish music, we need not be surprised that an Italian conductor performs it most excitingly.

Paul Griffiths

Performance creating its own shimmering universe

The Rest of Gil Evans/Live at the Royal Festival Hall 1978. Mole Jazz MOL 3.
 Film Noir: Stan Blake. Arista AN 3019.
 Electronic Sonata for Souls Beloved by Nature. George Russell Sextet. Soul Note SN 1009.
 M'Boom. Max Roach. Columbia (USA) TC 36247.

Those present at Gil Evans's London concert three years ago this week are unlikely ever to forget the enthralling experience of that master-class in the art of organizing jazz musicians and material so subtly that composition and improvisation became a single, infinitely flexible process.

Nothing summarizes Evans's apparently unassertive attitude to band-leading, as Max Harrison has noted, as perfectly as that passage from the *Tao Te Ching* which begins "The best of all rulers is but a shadowy presence to his subjects" and concludes "When his task is accomplished and his work is done the people all say, 'It happened to us naturally'." The Mole Jazz record, which rounds up the music left out of the first release from the Festival Hall concert (RCA PL25209), contains a perfect

realization of that aspect of his genius in its lengthy account of "Variation on the Mysterium", in which the 13 musicians are given no more than a slow 4/4 tempo and a grief-stricken eight-bar melody made up of four symmetrical dying falls, voiced in the upper registers of trumpet, soprano saxophone and flute, terminated on each repeat by a disturbing four-note bass figure.

Announced by Evans's own cryptic electric piano, and built around what may at first seem to be a meandering trumpet solo by Marvin Peterson, the performance creates its own shimmering universe, paced by Susan Evans's sensitive drumming and by John Clark's reeling guitar chords, which reflect back to another of Evans's classic expansions of a minimal framework. "La Nevada" as well as that 20-year-old studio recording, "Variation" reveals in its depth of focus, alternating close-ups of Peterson's moirish incantations with landscapes of fantastic, chimerical detail.

A more overtly rigorous and equally bracing approach to composition can be heard on *Film Noir*, in which Stan Blake presents 11 absorbing pieces inspired by the work of directors from Lang to Chabrol,

delivered by a variety of instrumental configurations which begin with Blake's own solo piano and end with an 11-piece ensemble staffed by his students at the New England Conservatory's Third Stream Department.

Sometimes Blake recomposes the original theme music; otherwise he conceals his own interpretations from scratch. Nowhere, though, is any programmatic content allowed to deflect attention from the musical development. The music is as specifically evocative as the listener wishes it to be, except perhaps in the case of *Streetscape*. Named "1968" where the impressionistic scoring for alto saxophone, guitar, piano, bass and drums is as vividly pictorial as the miniatures of Jelly Roll Morton and George Russell.

Russell himself, one of the most stimulating jazz composers of the Fifties and Sixties, has been virtually silent for a decade so the appearance of his *Soul Note* album, devoted to a new reading of an extended composition previously recorded by a sextet in 1959 and by a big band the following year, is welcome proof that diminished public activity has dulled neither his abilities nor his ideals.



Gil Evans

The sextet heard on this recording, including the brilliant French bassist J.-F. Jenny Clark and two fine newcomers in Robert Moore, a saxophonist, and Victor Comer, a guitarist, is more relaxed than the 1959 equivalent. The intervening years have brought a more expansive attitude to the written "events", incorporating prepared tapes, on which the work is sketched, enabling a quality of interplay which grips throughout a very varied 50 minutes.

Max Roach's M'Boom is a percussion ensemble whose nine members, including relatively familiar performers like Joe Chambers and Roy Brooks, have assembled a programme of well-organized pieces which utilize tuned percussion, from xylophone to timpani, as well as African Latin and jazz drums, placing as much emphasis on melody as on rhythm.

Recorded with startling clarity (as part of Columbia's digital Mastersound series) this is an unusual and very fresh album, taking in exquisite Oriental viceroy, atmospheric Africanisms and a audacious version of Monk's "Epitaphy" in which Chambers's vibraphone improvisation rides above a walking bass line provided by Omar Clay's trumpet. Roach's masterful command of the trap set comes through most clearly in a duet with Ray Mantilla's timbales on "Can vasserai" — now perhaps someone in the West will make available his marvellous LP on solo improvisations, issued on *Solo* (Bayshore) in 1967, on specialist jazz record shops.

Richard Williams

PHILIPS

VERDI-FALSTAFF

Herbert von Karajan's new digital recording

Giuseppe Taddel / Rolando Panerai / Francisco Araiza
 Piero de Palma / Heinz Zednik / Federico D'Amico
 Raina Kabaivanska / Janet Perry / Christa Ludwig
 Trudelliese Schmidt

Vienna State Opera Chorus and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

DIGITAL 609 267 3 LPs DIGITAL 764 263 3 MCs

Twenty-four years have elapsed since Herbert von Karajan first recorded Falstaff. Philips Records proudly announce Herbert von Karajan's latest version of the work at their first digitally recorded opera and their first with the Maestro conducting.

Giuseppe Taddel as Falstaff views his participation in the recording with great enthusiasm. The interpretation of Falstaff means for a singer like me the absolute summit. It is a role in which the aged Verdi has accumulated all his composing skills. For me this opera is Verdi's best. Indeed Falstaff marked the re-birth of opera in Italy. It was labelled the comic opera of all time, and it put the larger-than-life-size character of Falstaff on the opera stage in all his splendour and vividness.

All Philips deluxe new releases are now imported from Holland.

Philips Classical Collection

فكرنا من الأصل

PERSONAL CHOICE



alter Landauer, the veteran pianist who partnered the late Aronov, is a guest in 3-2-1 (ITV, 6.35)

Stages, tonight's Arena film (BBC 2, 10.45) is about anthropological theatre, but don't let that put you off for it is an account of an extraordinary undertaking. It was filmed in a disused quarry near Adelaide, which Peter Brook's itinerant troupe use as a stage. One of the plays they put on is *The Ik*, which looks like a misprint but isn't. It is the name of a band of bunters who, when their valley was converted into a tribal park, had to change their lifestyle overnight—and not for the better. The point about tonight's film is that, although the *Ik* are tribesmen whose fate parallels that of the Ugandans—the Aborigines.

I went yesterday about Grange Hill, the BBC 1 serial about a comprehensive school which had no (unmuzzed) cause I did not know whether it represented the truth or not. hope to be enlightened today by *Did You See...?* (BBC 2, 3.35). It has an interview with Bernard Ashley, a headmaster, but his is a junior school, but as Mr Ashley also happens to be author of the book on which the current Wednesday evening BC 1 serial *Break in the Sun* is based—a story in which the psychological machinery of the over-elevens is examined with a really understanding eye—I feel he may be just the man to answer questions about the denizens of the blackboard jungle called Grange Hill.

Michael Parkinson's chat show marks up its third century (BBC 1, 9.45). It only occasionally betrays its great age, o mark the tercentenary. Mr Parkinson will bring forth from the shadows where he has been heard but only dimly perceived over the years his musical director, Barry Stoweham. It is a generous gesture, but long overdue. Mr Stoweham and his orchestra have had to synchronize their music with many essentially unmusical talents in the Parkinson show. A musical combination, theirs, that has elevated improvisation to the status of a semi-permanent art form.

William Ash's dramatization of *Wuthering Heights* (Radio 4, 10.45) could be criticized (and indeed was, on Kaleidoscope, the other night) for being too close to the original. The aleidroscope contributor, whose name I did not catch because was snoring with content, wished that Ken Russell had seen *Ik* loose on Emily Brontë. Tune in today, and wonder at the power which the tale, with only a minimum of reorganization, it manages to generate. I have reservations about Derek Jacob's Heathcliff, but ever since (and including) Olivier, the *Ik* has been unrepeatable. The best Heathcliff is still the one who lives at us from the printed page.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: *STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; *REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davale

TELEVISION

BBC 1

7.40 Open University: Maths, maps: 8.05 World Food Production. Closes down at 8.30.
8.05 Swin: The break stroke (r).
8.30 Multi-Coloured Swap Shop: Includes Barry Took's Points of View, Showdown and Status Quo. 12.12 Weather.
12.15 Groundwork: The line-up is: 12.20 Football Focus; 12.50 Boxing: 'Dove' Roy Green in action at the Royal Albert Hall; 1.00 International Football: The Great Goals Challenge, England v India v Sweden at 1.05 and 1.55; 2.00 News; 2.05 News; 2.10 News; 2.15 News; 2.20 News; 2.25 News; 2.30 News; 2.35 News; 2.40 News; 2.45 News; 2.50 News; 2.55 News; 3.00 News; 3.05 News; 3.10 News; 3.15 News; 3.20 News; 3.25 News; 3.30 News; 3.35 News; 3.40 News; 3.45 News; 3.50 News; 3.55 News; 4.00 News; 4.05 News; 4.10 News; 4.15 News; 4.20 News; 4.25 News; 4.30 News; 4.35 News; 4.40 News; 4.45 News; 4.50 News; 4.55 News; 5.00 News; 5.05 News; 5.10 News; 5.15 News; 5.20 News; 5.25 News; 5.30 News; 5.35 News; 5.40 News; 5.45 News; 5.50 News; 5.55 News; 6.00 News; 6.05 News; 6.10 News; 6.15 News; 6.20 News; 6.25 News; 6.30 News; 6.35 News; 6.40 News; 6.45 News; 6.50 News; 6.55 News; 7.00 News; 7.05 News; 7.10 News; 7.15 News; 7.20 News; 7.25 News; 7.30 News; 7.35 News; 7.40 News; 7.45 News; 7.50 News; 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ARTHUR MILLER'S *The Crucible*
 Directed by Bill Brycen
 NATIONAL THEATRE PRODUCTION
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David Wade

A tea-pot by Quentin Bell for his own use

That last "even" says plenty about the culture of British hotels, and not only the ones there—the food is good. But Mrs Brand puts the difficulties sympathetically from the traveller's point of view: "The English seem to be rather bad at training their children to do public. I mean what would you do, or feel like being, when a six-year-old child hurls his breakfast to the floor and says: 'There, now that can I do? I can't eat eggs

strained his supremacy in tournament chess, even if his many victories over Viktor Korchnoi have been by the narrowest of margins.

The British championships have always been decided by tournament play, though there have been quite a number of occasions when play-off matches have been necessitated by ties for first place in the tournament. The latest was that arising out of the Greater London Grant British Championship tournament held last August at Brighton. That tournament ended in a tie between William Harrison and John Nunn, both eight points each. Neither player lost a game at Brighton and a fine match was expected and duly happened.

Six games were played but Harrison emerged with the

interesting move of ...d7 with bewildering complications.

(Position after 22... KxP)

23 R-B2 P-B3 25 R-A2 KxP
24 P-P4 P-K4 26 N-N3 P-N

A-nd B-nd C-nd D-nd E-nd F-nd G-nd H-nd



Isabelle Anscombe



Fred Emery

The new team, arming for the real fight

"Social Democrat!" scolded a Tory MP as Labour's front bench spokesman told the Commons how a small businessman, now on the dole, had been apologizing to him for voting for Mrs Thatcher. Dr David Owen hugged himself with glee as a significant little debate on the economy and employment in southern England—the affluent South—produced Tory after Tory in lament over Government policy.

If the Social Democrats—who next week break with Labour as the final step before the full launching of their new party in April—are now to be seen as the natural refuge of discontented Tory voters, then they are indeed in business. Such a remark would have been inconceivable a month ago, and is vivid testimony to the official distance covered since Labour's Wembley conference five weeks ago.

The Social Democrats are treated with scorn, betraying unease, by Tory and Labour leaders alike. And they seem to have been surprised as well as gratified by Mrs Thatcher's suggestion a fortnight ago that they were a slower form of the poison she ascribed to the Bennite left. It used to be judged bad politics to mention your opponents, to insult them elevates them as well as granting free publicity.

That commodity, of course, has not been in short supply. Rightly, as a political phenomenon, they have been treated prominently. Understandably, that anxious rival politicians, particularly in the Labour

Party. Not all of it can have helped the Social Democrats.

The formation of the Council for Social Democracy has already gained 25,000 supporters and has aroused expectations that cannot be fulfilled. A lot of people wish that a party had been formed immediately. Many more probably assume that it does already exist, judging by the accounts of Thames TV Eye programme last Thursday which ran a trial run of popular reactions and mock promotion—billboards, party political and all—as if it actually existed.

So a brief stocktaking of where matters are and where some of the participants think they are going is in order. First, the immediate events. Mr John Cartwright's sudden defection from Labour is an unlooked-for bonus for the Social Democrats. He brings organizational skill and commitment, as a former Labour agent; he also brings to a dozen the number of MPs who are set to resign their party Whip before Tuesday's debate on the nuclear deterrent.

By then the drawn-out process of consulting friends in local parties and unions will have been completed, with Mr William Rodgers, last of the gang of three to complete the formalities, making a statement of his intentions tomorrow.

Resigning the Whip produces a new grouping, the third largest in the Commons, with spokesmen attacking Opposition as well as Government, seeking to catch the speaker's eye. But the present intention is not to resign seats and contest by-

elections under new colours. Several explanations are offered.

The main one is strategy. This, the reporter is left in no doubt, is a deadly serious offensive on the major parties at the next general election. The objective is to form a government, either by outright victory or by gaining enough seats to determine who forms the next government with them.

It is not that all the recent opinion polls indicating this possibility have gone to people's heads; victory is their steady objective. It is an immense task that will take thorough preparation and mobilization as a party.

Creating the party organization has first priority, with all the emphasis on computerizing membership records, and formulating and building new democratic structures. If you have campaigned in vain to get one-member-one-vote inside the Labour Party, that system must prevail in the new party.

So, without a party in being—and not until April will it be launched—and no structure for selection of candidates likely for months, no by-election will be sought. Another reason is that by simply resigning seats MPs have no control of the date for a by-election. Even if all 17 resigned, they could be sure that the Conservative and Labour Whips would collude to ensure that by-elections did not occur all on the same day. Only if Mr Foot's search for reinforcements for the depleted Labour peers provoked by-elections would the Social

Democrats be tempted to test the vote.

This reluctance which risks being seen in conventional terms as a lack of fight, could well surprise some of the group's more impatient supporters. But the gang of four, who are reportedly maintaining a general collective leadership at their regular Monday meetings, are determined not to be rushed and have their challenge botched.

Neither, it is said, do they wish to impose themselves as self-appointed leaders.

Preoccupation with proper organization also means that it is unlikely that there will be a lengthy policy manifesto issued at the party launching. Impatience to know what the party stands for is acknowledged, but the wish is to avert detailed policy commitments until the real fight at a general election. So what seems most feasible is some extension of the original statement of aims, originally put perhaps too negatively in the "Linchpin declaration".

There is no lack of ideas. Dr David Owen's book will be followed by Mrs Shirley Williams's (Politics is for People) out in mid-April. According to advance publicity, she holds that politicians, especially the Social Democrats, "will have to make a quantum jump in their thinking, a leap to a new approach, if the west is to move forward". Mr Roy Jenkins's programme of speeches includes the part adoption of Professor James Meade's novel ideas for an incomes policy, as well as the growing

camp being inspanned they believed that the occupation of the hill had turned Laing's Neck.

They were soon disabused. "About 1.30 pm, the two companies of Boers who had scaled the highest part of the hill, suddenly appeared on the skyline. The troops lining this taken by surprise, gave way and fell back."

General Colley's second-in-command, Lt-Col Herbert Stewart, described the confusion, rapidly leading to panic, which ensued. General Colley led reinforcements to the crest, only to be met by "the mass retreating rapidly. An order was then given to cease fire and retire, although no necessity for so doing would appear to have existed. The troops of the front line ran in upon those just retreating to their support, causing some confusion."

A war correspondent, John Cameron, of the *Standard*, was more explicit. "For the first time it dawned upon us that we might lose the hill for the soldiers moving forward slowly and hesitatingly—it was evident that they did not like the work before them. An officer said of the enemy, 'Oh! There they are, quite close', and the words were hardly out of his mouth when a few men of the reinforcements bolted back in panic-stricken."

The Boers advanced rapidly, as though on a game shoot. The whole British line gave way and poured over the steep slopes of the hill, back the way they had come a few hours before. A lieutenant of the Gordons tried to rally his men, threatening to shoot anyone who passed him. But this type of warfare was outside the redcoats' experience, and there was no skill of the pipes to rally them. As Cameron said, it was a fearful sight.

"The Boers were on the ridge above, and for 10 minutes kept up their terrible fire on our soldiers, who plunged down every path. Many, exhausted with the marching, lay down behind rocks and bushes and were taken prisoner." . . . not the kind of despatch the journalists liked to read.

A few weeks later an armistice was signed, and the Boers were given back the Transvaal, with checks on their foreign policy. Eighteen years later in the second round of the conflict, at Elandsburg, a few miles from Majuba, the Gordons stormed the Boer positions with the cry "Remember Majuba" on their lips.

On another wall is a man who looks like a young Gary Cooper, hair waved and slicked back, jaw jutting in heroic pose. He is Farid Adin, a Syrian who was in the British Army during the 1948-49 war.

The pictures are not unlike the more lurid personal photographs that now adorn the walls of Beirut 1,200 miles away, where self-destruction is rather easier to come by. Hama, it seems, also has a propensity for "martyrdom".

The water wheels are hinged to some of the outer walls and along the dark corridors there comes the sound of creaking timber and the splash of water.

The people of Hama do not take easily to visitors. Their history has been a violent one since the second millennium BC, a story of prosperity and sudden destruction. Plundered by the Hittites in 1750 BC, by

Letter from Hama

Alone with the mighty water wheels

Being the only tourist in Hama is a little like exploring Madame Tussauds long after the last curator has locked up and gone home. Syria's perennial internal dissent has ensured that no visitors travel up to Hama these days but the place is as dreamlike as ever: even the gothic-faced security men possess a statuesque quality as they stare indifferently across the Orontes at the empty palaces and clattering water wheels.

At least seven of the 10 great wooden norias—400 years old and up to 60ft high—are still turning, their weathered blades clacking and vibrating and sluicing the Orontes on to crumbling aqueducts. They are patched with rotting planks, their stone mountings slippery with dark lichen. The papyrus and mosaic records of the city's Byzantine rulers depict their 800-year-old predecessors in Spain, Greece and Egypt. There are irrigation water wheels of identical design but none are as grand as the norias of Hama.

The promenades of deserted cafes stretch into the river so that the tourists who no longer arrive can catch the spray. The wheels groan on stump-like axles and if the Niagara of water, that teem back into the river bear witness to the Orontes rule, their ceaseless revolutions at least suggest that the people of Hama take some pride in their almost timeless existence. All over the city, you can hear the grinding of obsolete Victorian machinery.

The French writer Maurice Barre sat once by the Orontes at Hama, watching the evening swallows and reflecting upon the "inexplicable nostalgia" of the wheels—"like poems come to life"—and it is not just the machinery that lives. Hama is a gentle decadence. Not far from the Al-Nuri mosque, an ancient arched bridge crosses the Orontes, carrying a narrow road which disappears into a cluster of vaulted rooms, sunlight shafts between medieval houses where roofs are supported on carved beams beneath cupolas. Steep, heavily worn steps lead off the cobbled road and mullahs appear suddenly from the darkness, walking steadily heads down towards old wooden gates.

The water wheels are hinged to some of the outer walls and along the dark corridors there comes the sound of creaking timber and the splash of water. The people of Hama do not take easily to visitors. Their history has been a violent one since the second millennium BC, a story of prosperity and sudden destruction. Plundered by the Hittites in 1750 BC, by

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Enter the Fools: Be silent both. In common nonsense, sense who knows without the telling nothing lacks difference.

Christopher Logue

the Arameans in 1100 BC, by Sargon II in 750 BC and devastated by an earthquake in 1157 AD. Hama eventually achieved a measure of political stability after Saladin's armies swept northwards. Perhaps that is why the 100,000 population—90 per cent of whom are Sunni Muslim—are so introverted. Guide books call them pious. Damascenes call them rebellious; why else, they ask, has there been violence against the government at Hama? In the streets of the old quarter, even unformed schoolboys wear a black veil over their faces.

Less obscure was the gentle roan from the state police on the old bridge. Wearing a long leather coat and frameless glasses, this cheerful Polonius, listened intently to our request for directions to the Beit Azem museum and then gave the most specific instructions to us in flawless English.

The tourist ministry should hire him when things get back to normal. They should ensure, too, that visitors do not return to Hama for the Beit Azem. One of the most beautiful palaces in Syria, the Azems were the Rockefeller of Hama, a wealthy family of Maccanean-like aristocrats who governed and influenced the city for well over two centuries. Assad Pasha al-Azm was governor of Hama in 1700 and a descendant became prime minister of Syria. The palace courtyard is now surrounded by Roman remains, mosaics and Byzantine Christian tombs.

There is a small room at the back into which guides do not normally take their visitors. These are our martyrs, the curator's assistant said and turned on a lamp. And there around the walls was a series of faded grey photographs of serious-looking young men in Ottoman regalia and French cavalry uniform and in Arab dress, some carrying Lee-Enfield rifles.

Many of the men are Arameans, youths who once wore the uniform of the French army and air force but who later turned against their French masters—and their minority, Syrian colonial armies—and died fighting them.

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Robert Fisk

Ipsé Dixit

Do not believe there is a place called Generation Gap where Mister Big Jim Limbo precipitates cream from crap: a woman lacking manhood though vowed to feminine; nor any man of woman born without that ought within.

Who stipulates the contrary invites their fellow worm to entertain damnation, to stripe the nascent germ; bids credence service evil, and rectitude disguises vehement plausibilities to lead fools by their lies.

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Who stipulates the contrary invites their fellow worm to entertain damnation, to stripe the nascent germ; bids credence service evil, and rectitude disguises vehement plausibilities to lead fools by their lies.

Enter the Fools: Be silent both. In common nonsense, sense who knows without the telling nothing lacks difference.

Christopher Logue

Robert Fisk

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE DECISION FOR THE LIBERALS

The rapid movement of the Social Democrats towards the formation of a separate party creates a great opportunity for the Liberals. It also represents a great problem, and one on which Liberal opinion is divided. The opportunity is obvious enough. An electoral alliance between the Liberals and the Social Democrats, picking as far as possible the most suitable seats for each to fight, would give the Liberals their best chance since the 1920s of making a breakthrough in a general election. Mr Foot says that the Social Democrats "will become lonely figures in the political wilderness". He was no doubt referring to the well-known text from St Matthew: "the voice of one crying in the wilderness. Prepare ye the way of the Lord".

The public opinion polls, including the most recent Gallup poll, suggest that such an alliance would win an early general election, probably with an overall majority. Opinion polls may change and are an unreliable guide to the future three years ahead, but these opinion polls are far more favourable than even the best that the Liberals have enjoyed at their height. In particular, a Liberal/Social Democrat alliance would enjoy a credibility which the Liberals have not been able to achieve on their own, partly because the Social Democrats have the advantage of substantial experience in Government.

If the Liberals and the Social Democrats won a substantial number of seats, even if they only came third in the election, they would probably be able to exchange their support for an agreement to reform the electoral system. Dr David Owen committed the Social Democrats to electoral reform in his speech yesterday. That would be a powerful central theme for an alliance, and the majority of voters would support it.

The anxieties of the Liberals are of two kinds. They have a very reasonable party anxiety. The Liberal Party's position on its own may not be a strong one, but it is the centre party of British politics. The creation of another party in the centre does raise the threat of competition for the same votes. However, the Social Democrats do exist. If there is no alliance and Social Democrats and Liberals fight each other in every constituency,

there is no reason to suppose that the Liberals will come off best. Again, one must be cautious about public opinion polls, but the polls seem to show that the Social Democrats already have significantly more support than the Liberals; they could therefore be expected to run ahead of the Liberals in most constituencies if there were a four-party race. Even at this early stage, the Liberals, supposing they put their party interest first, do not have it in their power to strangle the Social Democrats at birth.

More worrying is the problem raised by differences in political philosophy and political policy. Many Liberals feel that their political beliefs are not the same as those of most Social Democrats, and that they would therefore be allowing their own beliefs to be swamped if they agreed to an effective alliance. The situation is, however, a complex one. As Mr David Hughes, a well-known Liberal candidate, points out in his pamphlet published today, the Social Democrats are not all of a piece. He distinguishes, between what might be termed Gaitskillite Social Democrats and those who are essentially rather conservative in their outlook and are distressed by the way that the Labour Party is going.

Equally, however, the Liberals are not all of a piece. The Liberalism of Mr Cyril Smith and that of Mr Jo Grimond could hardly be further apart. Some Liberals still have a real attachment to nineteenth century economic Liberalism which is now more commonly the ideology of the Conservative right. Most Liberals retain a classical Liberal view, in line with that of John Stuart Mill, towards issues of personal liberty, but have a neo-Keynesian and interventionist approach to economic and industrial affairs.

The question that has to be asked is whether there is a reasonable fit between the range of opinions in the Liberal Party and the range of opinions in the Social Democrat Party that is forming. One only has to inspect the leadership to see that such a fit does exist. There is indeed an overlap between the views of Mr Roy Jenkins and Mr David Steel. If one did not know which party each man supported, one might well think that Mr Steel was the Social Democrat and Mr Jenkins a rather Asquithian Liberal.

If one looks at the issues of

policy, there is little of substance which divides most Liberals from most Social Democrats, though there are, of course, individual issues which would provoke intense debate inside both parties. Both parties accept substantial Government intervention, put a high priority on social welfare expenditure, support the maintenance of a mixed economy with a major private sector, and believe in a democratic, open and libertarian approach to the problems of Government.

The most difficult question to settle might well be that of the relationship with the trade unions. The Social Democrats, as a party of the left, are anxious to cultivate close relations with the trade unions, while avoiding the role of a trade union party. Some Liberals at least believe that trade unions should accept a legal framework such as was advocated by the late Sir Andrew Shonfield—surely himself a potential Social Democrat—in the Minority Report of the Donovan Commission. However, a Liberal and Social Democrat government would at least be able to approach the question of trade union reform knowing that a reform once carried would be most unlikely to be repealed. The fact that Conservative legislation is always subject to eventual repeal has done much to make it ineffective.

The issue of electoral reform is paramount. Without a Liberal and Social Democratic Alliance, it is unlikely that the Liberals can gain electoral reform. From the point of view of the Liberal Party, their voice would continue to be automatically discounted by an unjust electoral system. From the national point of view, our unbalanced electoral system exposes us to the risk of minority governments, with majorities in the House of Commons, which do not represent the consensus of the national will. This has done considerable harm to Britain in the past and perhaps in the present; it could do irreparable harm if a minority Marxist government were to be elected at some stage in the future. The alliance would fight on two great issues: the reform of the electoral system and the politics of agreement against the politics of division. So discredited are the two major parties at present, that such an appeal would—and probably in fact will—be extremely powerful.

The majority of trade unionists take a very different view to that of the founding fathers of the Labour Party—as merely reflecting the divisions within our society. The Marxists maintain that such a view and role would make it impossible for the trade unions to reform our society and, therefore, the theory of Marxism (namely, that class society must be introduced by a theoretical and intellectual elite. No doubt Ken Gill includes himself in this category. His Marxist so-called class analysis of the role of the trade unions is in sharp contrast with historical reality.

It is the Gang of Gill's view that in the end will relegate trade unions to the role of transmission belts for the decisions of the oligarchical classivist state, and their worst members into its servants. This reality has been long understood by the majority of the ordinary members of the British Labour movement whose vigilance up to now has avoided the necessity of the re-birth of the trade union movement currently taking place in Poland.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK CHAPPEL,
Hayes Court,
West Common Road, Bromley.
February 27.

Nationality proposals
From Miss Jenni Atkinson
Sir, So much Powell does not believe that women, like men, should have the right to pass on British nationality to their children because they do not fight for their country (report, February 18). Yet it is the senior men within the armed forces who make the decision which "bar" women from combat roles.

I doubt if the women of World War 2—blitzed, rationed, bereaved and many in uniform—would regard themselves as not having fought for their country. There is more to defending one's country than pulling a trigger which, incidentally, many men don't do. Mr Powell said: "... the functions of the two sexes are different. One is to bear arms. The other to sustain, preserve and care for life". Why, oh why, should the latter function be unworthy of the right to transmit British nationality?

Yours faithfully,
JENNI ATKINSON,
26 Stanhope Road,
Reading,
Berkshire.
February 19

Economic priorities
From Mr John Bruce-Gardyne, MP for Knutsford (Conservative)
Sir, Your Parliamentary Correspondent is fully entitled to make his own assessment of the tensile quality of monetarism on the Government backbenches (February 27). But I think I must point out that it was "not to be heard pleading with the Government to stand firm" at Chancellor's Question Time yesterday, this was because I was not called to do so.

Had my own question to the Chancellor about exchange rate policy been reached I would have sought to suggest that the Government can have an exchange rate policy, or a counter-inflation policy, or that cannot have both at the same time. For the rest I find myself wholly in agreement with the views expressed in your correspondence columns (February 27) by my colleague Mr Peter Roderer, MP.

Yours faithfully,
JOCK BRUCE-GARDYNE,
House of Commons.
February 27.

Origins of the Labour Party

From the General Secretary of the Electrical, Electronic Telecommunications and Plumbing Union
Sir, In your issue of February 18, under the title "Labour and the Election," Ken Gill (who has presumably more knowledge of sturgeon or other fish angled in muddy Russian waters than our native herring—red or otherwise) has produced a potpourri of fiction, pious fact and half-baked ideological claptrap. I do however understand his apprehensions about ballot votes and our "one person one vote" politics, but this is the fear of the unknown.

To suggest that the Labour Party was the product solely of the trade unions betrays a woeful ignorance of the history of working men's political aspirations historically and the variety of instruments utilized to achieve their objectives throughout centuries of endeavour in Britain. The Levellers, Chartists and others could claim equal parentage in terms of its ideological origins, and in espousing the ideas of the need for specific representation.

Present at its formation in 1900 were the representatives of 23,000 members of socialist societies and it is worth noting that, amongst the representatives of 500,000 trade unionists, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Technical, Administrative & Supervisory Staffs, predecessor, the Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen, were absent. Indeed, they did not affiliate until 1944 and only then after a series of political tricks which could hardly have been said to have the support of the membership of that organization.

Whatever role the unions may claim to have played in the formation of the Labour Party, in no sense can they claim to have proprietary rights in determining its programme and role in the contemporary political situation.

Few would deny the rights of the trade union movement to be allowed a strong influence on any of these considerations but most would deny the right of the Communists like Ken Gill to act as custodian of trade union rights in the matter, whatever they may be.

For the essence of the objection to trade union block voting, whatever may be its historic rights or wrongs, is that trade union leaders (who have the responsibility for doing the block vote) will be cast) rarely represent their members. Numerous public opinion polls and countless consultations with trade union members confirm that view.

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Yours faithfully,
JOCK BRUCE-GARDYNE,
House of Commons.
February 27.

Violence on the terraces

From Mr Chris Wright
Sir, Mr G. Kelly (Letters, February 24) seems, as most of the people he speaks on behalf of, to live in a totally different world from some one like myself, who has stood on terraces from Mexico to Harlepool, and Poland to Swansea.

As usual the only answer he can give to the problem is more seats, ban drink. These have been tried and failed; indeed one of the worst riots was by Leeds supporters in Paris when they were all seated. British Rail's recent introduction of "dry trains" is also a pathetic inconvenience to most people. I recently travelled to Manchester on such a train only to see 15-year-olds pour off the end into a supermarket to be served bottles of vodka by a 16-year-old sales assistant.

The Football League should first put its own house in order. make contracts stick, stop intimidation on the pitch, stop players draining the game of every drop of cash. I work in the printing trade. In 1976 I was paid £40 per week and most Crystal Palace players got £65-£70 per week. I now get £170 per week but Palace players get up to £750 and I produce more and work longer hours. It is not time the Chairman who had a fruitless day at Solihull blaming others, realized it's they who have got to bring enjoyment back into football. Remember only one team can win the league but the other 31 can win the entertainment back as well.

Bring down the barriers at grounds. Bring in strong policing backed with stiff court sentences and clubs bringing injunctions against offenders. The "mobs and

rocks" battles of the 60s were not ended by making sea fronts all seater and closing down pubs. It was the courts sentencing which ended the mob.

However, maybe the Football League are only too happy to turn the spotlight from the shambles of hooligans, players payments for transfers, poor playing standards, bad sportsmanship and sacking of good managers and poaching of others.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
CHRIS WRIGHT, Chairman,
Palace Action Campaign,
13 Chisholm Road,
East Croydon,
Surrey.
February 24.

Labour and the centre
From Lady Burton of Coventry
Sir, The replies sent by Mr Ron Hayward and Mr Alex Kitson, respectively general secretary and chairman of the Labour Party (report, February 17), to Mrs Shirley Williams dismayed me and I imagine many more. Whether or not one agrees with Shirley Williams and I do—such taunts and comments, indeed such an attitude, towards anyone who gives light on the service the has to the Labour Party leave a nasty taste in one's mouth. If more people had shown the courage and determination, and had exhibited integrity in the way she has, we should be a better Party today.

I have always believed, and have said many times, that the best way to try to change the direction in a party was by saying in and making your voice heard. Well, I have tried: in private Party meetings and on the floor of the House. My colleagues have always given me a good and a fair hearing. They are in no doubt as to my attitude; otherwise I should not be writing this letter.

But on Monday January 26 I joined the Council for Social Democracy. Why? Because I believe that the Party has changed—fundamentally. And the Wembley Conference put this beyond doubt. In any political party I realise that there must be some policy points unacceptable to some members. But deep down in the Party to which I have belonged for 36 years there is an emerging undercurrent to which I can no longer subscribe.

The Council for Social Democracy "not win the next election but I believe it does offer hope; and with hope one can accomplish a great deal".

Yours faithfully,
LADY BURTON OF COVENTRY,
House of Lords, SW1.
February 21.

Guiding industry's future
From Mr D. E. Amory
Sir, Up to now the industrial policy of the Government has been to have no policy beyond a belief in the free market. But even if the Government attempts radically to improve the workings of the market, by wholesale nationalisation and trade union reform, the economy would still be quite unlike the industrial garden of Eden glimpsed in the nineteenth century.

The real world is one of monopoly, bargaining, giant corporations, foreign subsidies, and market distortions of every kind. Moreover the modern state will continue to exert a dominating influence over the economy through ownership, taxation, public purchasing, grants and regional policy.

Instead of coordinating these into a strategic policy the Government is now lurching from one ad hoc funding decision to another. This is immensely damaging to the Government's reputation and bitterly resented by those who see public largesse still being dispensed at ministerial discretion but without any guiding principle.

Britain needs a rapid and sustained shift of resources from senile industries to the infant technologies that will make the future job. This is emphatically not a question of more Government spending. It is instead a question of coordinating existing activities and funding in pursuit of industrial goals evolved within the private sector.

To leave out industrial future to market forces while at the same time spending billions of pounds in short-term relief is a paradox that can only amuse our competitors.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID E. AMORY,
12 Addison Gardens, W14.
February 26.

Getting BR shipshape
From Mr Michael Holt
Sir, How I agree with the content and sentiment displayed in the letter from Captain J. A. R. Swainson (February 27). Slovenly dress must lead to slovenly discipline and standards a real risk to safety standards.

Earlier this month I wrote to the Divisional Manager of British Rail Eastern Region at Liverpool Street pointing out the regular deficiency of a particular train in the following terms: "The inefficiency of this train is in fact epitomised by the scruffy appearance of the travelling staff on the train. This morning, the 'dickie collector' was dressed in filthy jeans, a disgusting stained British Railways jacket, unkempt hair and no hat. I told him that I would show my ticket to an inspector who was properly dressed. His only comment was 'please yourself'. I must inform you that I and many others will refuse to show our tickets to this particular individual until he appears in a proper uniform."

If all regular travellers on British Rail took a similar stance we would undoubtedly achieve a properly uniformed railway staff who cannot have both at the same time. For the rest I find myself wholly in agreement with the views expressed in your correspondence columns (February 27) by my colleague Mr Peter Roderer, MP.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HOLT,
West Bergholt Lodge,
Calchester,
Essex.
February 27.

Sad echo of a Cavalier

From Lady Antonia Pinter
Sir, The general jolly discussion about Lady Diana Spencer's ancestry, let it not be forgotten that she is descended from Edmund Waller's Sacharissa. Dorothy Siddony, Countess of Sunderland, Waller wrote of his unrequited love:

Go, lovely Rose!
Tell her that wastes her time and me,
That now she knows,
When I resemble her to thee,
How sweet and fair she seems to be.

It is pleasant to think that the prince has met with a happier fate than the poet.

Yours faithfully,
ANTONIA PINTER,
52 Campden Hill Square, W8.
February 25.

Missing surveys
From Mr J. L. Hogg
Sir, I was surprised to read on the front page of today's issue (February 25) that Lady Diana Spencer was descended from the right side of the blanket from Charles II. That would surely give her a better title to the Throne than the Prince of Wales. Seemingly there was no other house to make points at. All this savours of reason rather than reason.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
J. L. HOGG,
6 Carad Court,
Cleeve Road,
Goring-on-Thames,
Berkshire.
February 25.

Missing surveys
From Professor M. W. Barley
Sir, Several correspondents, and now your Planning Reporter (February 21: "Places in peril") have drawn attention to one effect or another of current economies and of planning and fiscal policies. I should like to make points that have not been expressed so far.

As one who wishes to read historical buildings as documents about the past, I search in vain—in books and in the library of the National Monuments Record—for measured surveys of houses such as those illustrated in John Young's article. It is one of hundreds of such houses known at best only from a few photographs. Only a measured survey will reveal its full history: whether for instance it incorporates part of an older house and how far it was altered by later owners.

The National Trust, rightly or wrongly, does not feel obliged to commission surveys of its properties; there is, for example, no recent survey of Sudbury Hall, Derbyshire, and a guide-book gives the visitor no hint as to minor but significant changes such as the disappearance of the chapel, Burley on the Hill (also near Oakham) was built about 1700 by an Earl of Northampton; we know the circumstances of its building and its cost, but it is represented in print only by a sketch plan without a scale.

The truth is that we know more about farmhouses and cottages—thanks to the Royal Commission and to amateur archaeologists such as the Yorkshire group which recently produced a Chronology in December—than we do about manor houses, personage houses and all those of superior status.

More attention to collecting and compiling surveys of country houses would clarify a clearer light on aspects of social history and on the local communities which supported them. It would also provide a sounder basis for judgments about problems of preservation.

Yours faithfully,
M. W. BARLEY,
10 Park Road,
Chilwell,
Nottingham,
February 22.

Care of ancient buildings
From Mrs Vivienne Bridges
Sir, Mr Trevor Jukes in his letter in today's issue (February 26) of The Times asks on what evidence Lord Mersey bases his statement that "ivy destroys masonry" and quotes Mr W. J. Bean and the Royal Horticultural Society's Dictionary of Gardening, as well as his own experience of ivy-clad houses, to refute this assertion.

With all due deference to these various authorities, as the owner of an old stone-built and tile-hung house my experience entirely confirms Lord Mersey's opinion. A large ivy on this house had put forth suckers strong enough to root firmly in the mortar which, over the years, had crumbled away leaving holes large enough for a small army of rats to "effect an entry"—which they did—while ivy tendrils, having dislodged the hung tiles, made an ornamental, but unwelcome, appearance indoors. Only the removal of this precarious plant for essential repointing and other repairs revealed the extraordinary extent of the damage.

Yours faithfully,
VIVIANNE BRIDGES,
3 The Five Houses,
Winchelsea,
Sussex.
February 26.

Wizards that were
From Group Captain H. W. Pearson-Rogers
Sir, Mr Philip Howard (February 25) speculates with his usual charm and erudition on the first use of wizard being used in 1925-30—the time of the Schneider Cup victories. In 1931 my son was christened Merlin, suggested by the late Air Marshal Sir Richard Atcherley, my great friend and best man, because Merlin was a wizard.

I suggest that Oriel caught it from the RAF. Some historian however may well prove that the Black Prince was heard to say "Wizard show" after Poitiers.

Yours faithfully,
H. W. PEARSON-ROGERS,
Toscock,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk.
February 24.

THE COMPLEX CASE OF EL SALVADOR

The decision of the Reagan Administration to make a stand over the question of El Salvador bears signs of haste, and does not seem to have been carefully thought through. The calculation in the White House seems to have been that since the West is engaged in a global struggle against the forces of Marxism-Leninism, an example should be provided in the early days of the new administration of the way in which the tide of Communism can be contained.

El Salvador presents a classic case of Communist-supported subversion, on the very doorstep of the United States. The American solution is to increase financial and military support to the government forces, in an effort to quash the growing rebellion by left wing guerrillas armed by the Soviet Union and its allies, by way of Cuba and Nicaragua.

This is to apply a simple remedy to an extremely complex situation. El Salvador is one of the tiniest countries in the Americas, with a population of no more than five million, and has been politically unsettled for centuries. In modern times it has been ruled by right wing military juntas of a particularly oppressive and unpleasant kind. But two years ago, more enlightened regimes came to power. President José Napoleon Duarte has tried to introduce economic and social reforms, the most important being land reform. El Salvador is an overwhelmingly agricultural state, and President Duarte has gone some way toward satisfying the demands of the peasantry, by introducing

farming co-operatives, and other measures.

These reforms have alarmed entrenched landowning interests, while falling far short of the revolutionary measures advocated by those on the extreme left, with the result that a largely moderate and well-intentioned Government has found itself caught in the crossfire of growing violence between left and right. It has been unable to rely on the Army, which tends to sympathize or even collude with right wing terrorists.

The view of the European partners in the Western Alliance has been that the troubles of El Salvador are essentially indigenous. The Americans are right to emphasize the culpability of the Soviet Union and Cuba in aiding the terrorists of the left. The evidence presented by the American State Department on this question shows, that since last August over 600 tons of sophisticated weaponry has found its way to left wing guerrillas in El Salvador from Communist sources.

On the other hand, it is scarcely surprising that the Americans should have "caught the Communists with their hand in the cookie jar", as President Reagan's Press Secretary put it. The Russians have traditionally exploited genuine political and social unrest all over the world for their own purposes, and will no doubt continue to do so. The Europeans can certainly support American efforts to stop Communist arms supplies, and will join the Americans in condemning gross Soviet interference in what is unquestionably the

American sphere of influence. But they begin from the premise that if there were no injustice and oppression in El Salvador in the first place, the Communists would have no grievances on which to feed. The Army and the right wing forces, at least, as much to blame for anarchy and violence as the left.

As Mrs Thatcher pointed out in Washington, it is for the people of El Salvador to solve their own problems. The West Germans have tried (so far, unsuccessfully) to arrange an accommodation between President Duarte and opposition moderate socialists. The tendency in Washington is to regard all those of left wing persuasion in El Salvador as tarred with the Communist brush. In fact, however, opposition socialists can exert a moderating influence on the left wing guerrillas (many of whom in any case adhere to an agrarian socialism quite different from the Soviet model), and in contrast with President Duarte would present a powerful reforming force.

The Reagan Administration could do worse than to take up this initiative. It is encouraging that America has consulted its allies on this issue, to the extent of sending the Assistant Secretary of State, Mr Lawrence Bagelburger, to European capitals to explain Washington's point of view. But alliance politics is a two way process. El Salvador might yet provide a test case not only of Mr Reagan's ability to contain Communism, but also of his willingness to share European perceptions of conflicts in which Western interests are at risk.

I suggest that the carriage of duty-free drink is not the major problem. The overriding problem is the flammability of aircraft fuel. If we can reduce this, many of the survivability problems will diminish and others will disappear.

In fact significant progress has been made in finding a way of reducing the flammability of aircraft fuel, and that is by using an anti-misting additive. This important development has received very little attention in the media and got no more than a cursory reference in this television programme.

Originating from work done by JCI and the Royal Air Force Establishment, this development is now the subject of concentrated Anglo-American research. Certainly this development is seen by both British and United States safety authorities as potentially the most effective way of reducing post-crash fires and the consequent loss of lives.

Meanwhile, of course, the safety authorities must continue with their primary task which is to prevent aircraft accidents from happening.

Yours faithfully,
ROY WORTHING, Group Director
Safety Services,
Civil Aviation Authority,
CAA House,
45-59 Kingsway, WC2.

The Atlantic debate

From Mr Lionel Bloch
Sir, May I question some of the basic assumptions of your leader on the Atlantic debate (February 23)?

You quote with approval the German politician who pointed out that the alliance could only be a partnership if the Americans would acknowledge "European political realities" as much as Europeans would recognize American ones.

The symmetry is spurious. In fact, Western Europe, through its military dependence on the United States, has to move a great deal nearer to the American position if the alliance is to remain effective.

If the Germans are worried about their voters, this is only because their politicians have failed these past few years to alert them to the true implications of Soviet rearmament. One cannot memorize public opinion by constantly extolling the virtues of détente, and then complain that it does not support rearmament.

You also endorse Mr Geoffrey Pattie's statement that "western countries must avoid falling into the trap which the Russians have fallen into of reverting to imperialist attitudes and practices in relations towards the developing world".

Aircraft fire hazards

From Mr Roy Worthing
Sir, Mrs Susanna Hall (February 26) draws attention to survivability problems in aircraft crashes, which were the subject of a recent television programme, and recommends that duty-free drink should be banned from flights.

Yours faithfully,
ROY WORTHING, Group Director
Safety Services,
Civil Aviation Authority,
CAA House,
45-59 Kingsway, WC2.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Personal
Investment and
finance,
pages 20 and 21

Stock markets
FT Index 506.6, up 8.8
FT Gilts 99.12, down 0.14

Sterling
\$2.2650, down 210 points
Index 98.9, down 0.4

Dollar
Index 100.6, up 0.7
DM2.1305, up 160 points

Gold
\$490.50, down 51

Money
3 mth sterling 12 1/4-12 1/2
3 mth Euro-S 16 1/4-16 1/2
6 mth Euro-S 16 1/4-16 1/2

EEC steelmakers ordered to make further output cuts of up to 25 pc

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Feb 27

Community steel companies were ordered today by the European Commission to make a further sharp cutback in production in the second quarter in a move to shore up prices and restore profitability.

The cuts range between 18 and 25 per cent for the four main categories of rolled products compared to the level of output achieved in the final quarter of 1979, when total crude steel production was 35.7 million tonnes.

The new quotas, which go into effect on April 1, represent the third successive lowering of the compulsory limits imposed by the European Commission under the emergency powers of article 58 of the Treaty of Rome.

The measures came into force on October 1 last year with the approval of the EEC member states. Many of them had grown alarmed at the effects on the steel industry of savage price-cutting by companies fighting to retain shares of a shrinking market.

On June 30 the article 58 power will expire unless renewed, but Viscount Eleanore Davidson, the EEC Commissioner for Industry, has said that he will not propose an extension. Instead, he will urge

Office of Fair Trading rules that refusal to sell to multiple stores is anti-competitive

Monopolies referral for Raleigh bicycles

The retail policy of the Raleigh bicycle group, part of the Raleigh group, is to be investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in the first case to be pursued under the new Competition Act.

Mr Gordon Barrie, the director-general of fair trading, announced yesterday that he had referred the case to the commission after finding that the company was operating an anti-competitive practice by refusing to sell to multiple stores.

Mr Tom McAuliffe, chairman of Argos, one of the multiples concerned, said last night that the company was writing to 10 other manufacturers which had refused to sell their products asking if they would reconsider their decision in the light of the OFT report on Raleigh.

The companies are Alfred Dunhill, Hitachi, JVC, National Panasonic, Sony, Toshiba, Westwood, Carlton Sport, Time Products and Rolex Watches.

Mr Ian Phillips, chairman and managing director of TI Raleigh Industries, said that the company regretted the OFT decision, which only considered matters of competition to the exclusion of broader issues of public interest such as road safety.

"It is TI Raleigh's policy, when it has the choice, to trade only through outlets where proper arrangements are made for technical service and spare parts."

"It does not consider it to be in its own interest or in those of the public to have its bicycles sold through outlets which provide no proper technical or service base themselves, and which set out to undermine the sales of those who do."

The National Association of Cycle and Motorcycle Traders said that it was bitterly disappointed by the OFT report and that it would take "every step necessary to support TI Raleigh in its endeavours to establish the right of manufacturers to supply to whom they wish."

The Monopolies Commission will decide whether the trading policy of Raleigh, which has 45 per cent of the United Kingdom bicycle market, is in the public interest.

Mr Barrie said in the OFT report, that he had identified an anti-competitive practice being pursued by a dominant manufacturer of an important product. The group represented that the practice was in the public interest, but conflicting views had been expressed from several sources outside the group about whether such a view was correct.

Decision to sell shares in Cable & Wireless likely next week

By Our Industrial Staff

The Government is likely to announce formally next week its decision to sell shares in Cable & Wireless, the state-owned international communications business.

It is expected that the public will be allowed to subscribe for 49 per cent of the group, which has a decision to sell shares in Cable & Wireless, the state-owned international communications business.

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Further 3,000 jobs go in factory cutbacks

By John Huxley and Clifford Webb

Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds is to close two more factories supplying the motor industry. A total of 740 jobs will be lost at Newton, Powys, and Eglecliffe, on Durham, both areas of high unemployment.

Elsewhere, more than 2,300 other redundancies were announced, although 1,500 workers in Scotland learned that they would be returning to full-time working for the first time since September, and Tesco announced plans which will create up to 600 jobs.

More than 300 jobs will be lost at Hardy Spicer, of Eglecliffe, a GKN subsidiary which opened in the early 1960s as a result of government pressure on Midlands companies to export jobs to areas of high unemployment. The company makes drive shafts and constant velocity joints. Production will be transferred to Hardy Spicer's main plant at Erdington, Birmingham.

BRD, of Newton, Powys, another GKN offshoot, is to close its factory this summer, with the loss of about 430 jobs. The company, which makes propeller shafts for motor vehicles, made 120 workers redundant last year.

The Mechanical Industries Association is reducing its staff of about 100 by almost one-third. Cuts will affect all levels of staff from directors downwards.

Delta Group yesterday blamed declining international demand and the need to close 400 and 600 jobs. The scheme is for a Tesco superstore, garden centre, open market, public house, two more stores and about 40 shop units.

German trade deficit

West Germany posted the largest monthly trade deficit in its post-war history in January with imports exceeding exports by Deutsche marks 11.9 billion and the current account deficit expanding to DM5,000 million from DM4,000 million in December.

Bank and industry economists are surprised by the figures which they described as worse than the most pessimistic expectations.

The depreciation of the mark was blamed for worsening the country's terms of trade, despite mitigating factors such as two fewer working days in January this year against the same month last year, analysts of the worsening economic situation in West Germany see an early trade recovery likely.

The American trade deficit, which was a seasonally adjusted \$5,440m (£2,470m) in January from a revised \$3,110m in December. It was the largest deficit since last February. Originally the December had been \$2,980m.

British Petroleum

A cheque for more than £590m was handed to the Inland Revenue by British Petroleum when it made the biggest single payment in settlement of a bill for £584.4m petroleum revenue tax on North Sea oil. The difference was made up by tax certificates on deposit at the Inland Revenue, and the cheque

Pound falls further against dollar

By John Whitmore

Sterling lost further ground against a generally stronger dollar yesterday as speculation grew that the Government would make a large cut in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate in next month's Budget.

The pound fell to \$2.2920 at one stage yesterday before picking up towards the close to finish with a "net" of 2.2920, its index against a basket of currencies fell 0.4 to 98.9.

Over February as a whole the sterling index has fallen by 5 per cent. Against the dollar, sterling has dropped by almost 7 per cent.

The main reason for the pound's decline has been the conviction that international interest rate differentials may be about to widen significantly. Although dollar rates have declined this month, there is a fear that this may prove short-lived.

At the same time, the German authorities have felt forced to allow short-term interest

Lonrho bid for Fraser referred

Continued from page 1

Commission want to examine the deal, let them go ahead. We have nothing to fear."

Mr Ernest Sharp, non-executive deputy chairman of Fraser, said they had been confident of "seeing them off" without the monopolies reference.

"With both sides claiming support from institutional shareholders, Fraser had intended yesterday to begin taking soundings of the views of the big pension funds and insurance companies."

That exercise will now be put off until after the Monopolies Commission has reported. The Commission is allowed six months with provision for a three-month extension in exceptional circumstances.

For Lonrho, it will be its second monopolies investigation in as many years. Its all-share bid for Scottish and Universal Investments in 1978 was referred and reported on in March 1979.

The current referral has been made because the size of assets involved is more than £15m. But the Monopolies Commission is clearly going to look at whether a promise made to them during the last inquiry has been kept. That promise was that Lonrho's indirect stake in Fraser via Suits would not lead it to influence or control Fraser materially.

SE chief's broking firm in merger talks

By Catherine Gunn

Mr Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange and senior partner of Quilter, Hilton Goodison, stockbrokers, yesterday confirmed that merger talks were under way between his firm and Heddewick Stirling Grumbar.

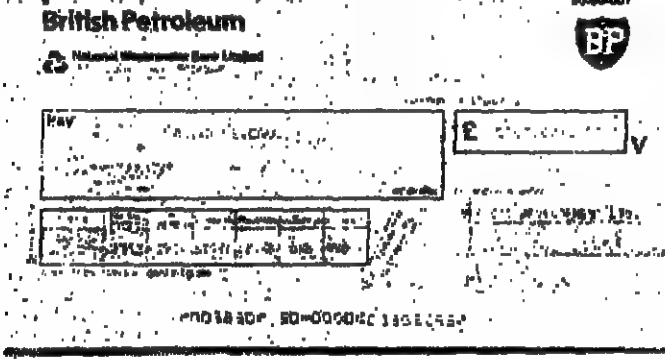
Final negotiations started on Thursday afternoon, though informal discussions have been going on for several weeks, Mr Goodison said.

Mr Richard Blaxland, managing partner of Quilter, said yesterday that the two firms may not be able to announce the result of their talks until Monday.

Mr Goodison stressed that Quilter would not be taking on Heddewick's gilt-edged business. "We have a small gilt-edged business of our own," he said.

Quilter's chief interest in Heddewick is its private client side. "It has always been our policy to acquire a firm considering absorbing suitable businesses to enhance our leading position in the management of our private client funds, or our specialist services to institutions," Mr Goodison said.

Heddewick's gilt department has been the subject of two Stock Exchange investigations in the last two and a half years. The first and most serious centred on the conduct of



rates to rise steeply to stabilise the Deutschmark.

By contrast, the British Government is expected to reduce M.R.B. by at least 2 per cent on March 10. I.C.T.'s poor results on Thursday were seen as increasing the pressure on the Government to cut interest rates sharply.

The Government is launching a new stock issue for 'high tax' payers next Wednesday, offering £500m nominal of Treasury 3 per cent 1986 at a minimum tender price of £694 per cent.

The expectation of a sharp cut in M.R.B. led to a further drop in Treasury Bill yields yesterday. The average rate of discount at which three months bills were allotted at the weekly tender fell to 11.58 from 12.05 per cent the previous Friday.

India may default on sugar deal

By Michael Prest

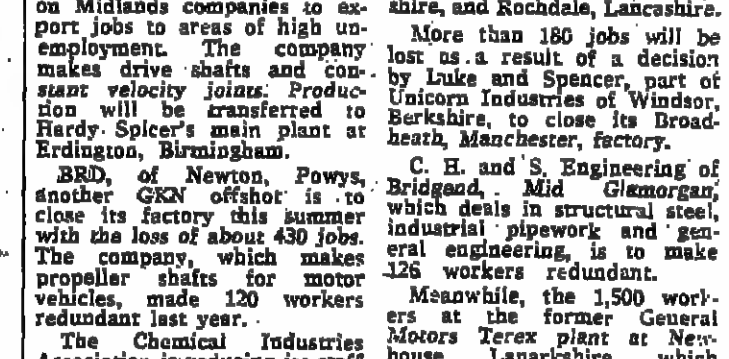
The Indian Government is in danger of defaulting on an agreement to supply E. D. & F. Man, the London sugar traders, with about 180,000 tonnes of white sugar by June this year. At present market prices the sugar is worth about £50m.

Man supplied India with a similar amount of sugar in 1980 and part of the deal was that India would repay Man in kind this year, but the Indian Government has banned sugar exports retrospectively from February 21.

Man was not prepared to comment yesterday because of the delicacy of the situation.

Sugar market sources in London said that the quantity in dispute might be only 120,000 tonnes and it was still possible that the sugar would be delivered but not within the contracted period.

The problem has arisen partly because the domestic price for sugar in India is higher than the prevailing world price, despite the latter being at record levels for a year. When the Indian government's state trading corporation invited tenders for export, Indian sellers asked for prices which it considered to be inflated.



for the greatest amount to be drawn through a British bank—was postdated and will be cleared through the National Westminster Bank on Monday. BP expects to make another big tax payment in six months and said the payment was enough to cover the development of an entire new North Sea field.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Falls
Lowry Group 13p to 24 1/2p	Allen & Ross 20p to 38 1/2p
Reckitt & Coleman 37p to 52 1/2p	Carters Cons 13p to 23 1/2p
Exco Hids 16p to 29 1/2p	Deccolux 13p to 9 1/2p
Global Nat Res 15p to 44 1/2p	Hammondson 5p to 63 1/2p
13p to 10 1/2p	Amross 7p to 58 1/2p

THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$ 1.97	Norway Kr 12.55	Bank of England 11.90
Austria Sch 35.85	Portugal Esc 2.10	11.90
Belgium Fr 81.50	Spain Ptas 167.00	11.90
Canada \$ 2.77	Sweden Kr 10.71	11.90
Denmark Kr 15.55	Switzerland Fr 4.50	11.90
Finland Mk 9.50	USA \$ 2.29	11.90
France Fr 11.40	Yugoslavia Dnr 64.50	11.90
Germany DM 4.90		11.90
Greece Dr 16.00		11.90
Hongkong \$ 12.15		11.90
Ireland Pd 1.32		11.90
Italy Lit 3350.00		11.90
Japan Yen 248.00		11.90
Netherlands Gld 5.40		11.90

Makers and users disappointed by frequency choice

CB airwaves buzz with discord

The airwaves of illegal citizens band radio are still ringing with the debate about the Government's decision to legalise and allocate two frequencies to its use.

The estimated 250,000 British users of illegal equipment, called "breakers", and even the manufacturers who had recommended frequencies different from those decided on by the Government, are less than satisfied.

By next autumn anyone wishing to operate CB equipment will be able to buy an annually renewable licence, probably at a Post Office, which will permit him to transmit within a limited range on 27MHz and 93MHz.

However the Government after advice from the Home Office, has determined that transmission must be by frequency modulation (FM) whereas the type of equipment used by most of the "breakers" uses amplitude modulation (AM).

It is here that the myths begin. Objective discussion seems to be becoming increasingly rare.

There are about 19 countries which allow citizens band for private use. Most have been using 27MHz AM but have been having increasing problems because the signals often cause interference with existing systems. Holland, France, Luxembourg and the Irish Republic have therefore opted for 27MHz FM.

Pye Telecommunications, a subsidiary of Philips, was one

A GUIDE TO INVESTMENT TRUSTS-7

Value for money

So far in the series we have outlined the advantages of Investment Trusts and have attempted to explain some of the technical aspects of the sector. We have however not yet discussed in any detail the costs involved.

Management charges

Some Investment Trusts employ their own salaried managers. Most, however, employ a management company or firm which charges an annual fee. Overall, Investment Trust management charges are lower than for other investment media. While it is impossible to provide precise figures because charges vary from one Investment Trust to another, on average Investment Trusts' annual charges are about one-third of one per cent of assets under management.

This is particularly good value at a time when many Unit Trust groups are negotiating with unitholders to raise charges. Bear in mind however that the level of charges is not an indication of the quality of management and the Investment Trust industry employs some of the finest and most accomplished investment managers in the world. The lower charges of Investment Trusts are mainly the result of the virtual absence of marketing costs.

As explained in Guide Number 1, Investment Trusts are limited liability companies which means that, by law, they cannot invite people to buy their shares through pages of advertising or the use of salesmen. While this places Investment Trusts at a marketing disadvantage, it does mean that their average costs are lower. Furthermore, it also means that more of the money put up by investors (who, it must be remembered, always ultimately pay for promotional costs) goes where it was intended—directly into their chosen investment.

Buying and selling

As a result of Investment Trusts being limited liability companies, their shares can only be bought through The Stock Exchange and cannot be bought from the Trust itself. Thus the shares are bought and sold through a stockbroker or by the investor instructing his bank manager or other professional adviser to act on his behalf. The costs incurred by investors in buying or selling shares should not be confused with Trusts' management charges.

When buying Ordinary shares of any company, including Investment Trusts, U.K. residents are subject to the following expenses: Government transfer stamp duty, contract stamp duty and stockbrokers' commission.

Government transfer stamp duty is payable on a purchase of Ordinary shares, Preference shares and convertible loan stocks at a rate of 2 per cent. Other loan stocks, including debentures, are exempt.

Stockbrokers' commission is subject to a scale of minimum charges. The following are the relevant extracts from The Stock Exchange's 'Scale of Minimum Commissions'. Some stockbroking firms may however charge more than the minimum.

(i) Ordinary shares	Consideration £200 or less	At discretion
	£200-£467	£7
	£467-£7,000	1%
	then at reducing rates.	
(ii) Loan stocks, including debentures, and convertible loan stocks	On the first £5,000 consideration	2%
	On the next £45,000 consideration	1%
	then at reducing rates.	
	VAT at the ruling rate is payable on stockbrokers' commission.	

In addition, there is a minimal duty of up to 60p payable on the contract note and, for bargains in excess of £5,000, there is a levy of 60p for the Council for the Securities Industry.

As an illustration the total costs on a purchase of Investment Trust Ordinary shares costing £1,000 would be:

Cost of shares	£	1,000.00
Stamp duty (2%)		20.00
Contract stamp		0.30
Stockbrokers' commission (1%)	15.00	
+ VAT at 15%	2.25	17.25
Total cost	£1,037.55	

On a sale similar expenses would arise on the proceeds except that no Government stamp duty would be payable.

Assets at a discount

Most Investment Trust shares are bought and sold at a discount on their underlying asset values; this is explained in more detail in Guide Number 5.

This means that Investment Trusts usually offer a way of buying a stake in other companies at reduced prices and that the Investment Trust shareholder has additional assets working for each pound invested.

Next Saturday: A defence against inflation

Reprints of the complete eight-part series which makes up 'A Guide to Investment Trusts' are available on request from The Secretary, The Association of Investment Trust Companies, Park House (Sixth Floor), 16 Finabury Circus, London EC2M 7TJ. Tel: 01-583 5347.

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Taxation

Preparing for bed and breakfast-time

It is around this season of the year that a chorus of financial advisers and stockbrokers start urging the investing public to "bed and breakfast" shares in order to save capital gains tax.

The trouble is that many people have only the haziest idea about the nature of this particular manoeuvre. So, with the end of the tax year in sight, here is a short guide to the do's and don'ts of saving CGT in this way.

At the heart of the bed and breakfast operation lies the fundamental rule throughout capital gains tax—you do not have a CGT liability unless you make a disposal (or a transaction which is treated as a disposal). So why should you deliberately want to realize a gain?

One of the reasons is to use up your small gains exemption. The first £3,000 of net gain (that is, total gains less total losses) realized each year is free of tax; and thereafter the tax rate is 30 per cent. So, if you had a £9,000 gain (and no others that year), on disposal the first £3,000 would be tax-free but the remainder would be taxed at 30 per cent with a £1,800 CGT bill. However, if you sold them over a three-year period—making a £3,000 tax-free gain each year, then you could save that £1,800.

But suppose you did not wish to sell your shares but still wanted to take advantage of the exemption—then the answer is to bed and breakfast them; you sell your shares and buy them back again the next day. In this way you make the gain, pay no tax and establish a higher cost price for the future in terms of any future gain. So, with your

£9,000 gain you could bed and breakfast £3,000 of the gain each year—end up with the same result—but still holding the shares.

You actually do the bed and breakfast operation as follows: ask your stockbroker to sell the shares before 3.30 pm in the middle of the week and he makes an informal arrangement with the jobber that you will be able to buy back the shares at an agreed price on the morning of the following day.

Under Stock Exchange rules, brokers and jobbers are not allowed to make binding forward bargains, so the arrangement is by way of being a gentleman's agreement. In the fairly unlikely event of a very important overnight change in circumstances, which would move the share price dramatically, the bed and breakfast arrangement may not hold up.

You cannot afford to ignore the costs of this operation. The charge is normally 15 per cent of the total disposal value up to £7,000; in addition, the jobber's profit or "turn" is usually a further 25 per cent of this commission. You also have to pay VAT on the stockbroker's commission. So to bed and breakfast a £7,000 transaction, say, would cost about £147 in commissions and the like.

In contrast, a number of unit trust managers are nowadays prepared to undertake bed and breakfast operations and the cost in this case is usually a very nominal charge. Schroder quote a flat rate of £15 regardless of the size of the transaction and Arbuthnot say they will undertake a bed and breakfast on the same basis for about £35 flat charge.

Sometimes, it may be worth bed and breakfasting a share or unit trust in order to realize a loss. The loss can be set against taxable gains and the tax liability is therefore postponed until a subsequent year—when perhaps the exemption will apply. If for example, you have net realized gains of £5,000 and an as yet unrealized loss of £2,000, then it may be worth bed and breakfasting the latter in order to stop a CGT liability arising this year.

But you are, of course, generating a future higher capital gains tax liability in a subsequent year because you are reducing the base cost of your investment. In other words, you will be treated as if you had bought it at the new lower price.

Six point check list for bed and breakfasting.

1. Always try to use up the £3,000 small gains exemption but not unless the amount of tax saved is significantly greater than the commission costs of dealing.

2. If you bed and breakfast losses, remember that if you have a large and fairly actively managed portfolio the only benefit is probably in terms of cashflow rather than ultimate tax savings.

3. Always bed and breakfast those assets where the loss or gain constitutes the highest proportion of the total value. The cost of bed and breakfasting is based on the total value of the transaction not the amount of the loss or gain you make.

4. Generally it is a good idea to bed and breakfast unit trusts before you bed and breakfast shares, but check the dealing costs with the unit trust managers first.

5. If you are bed and breakfasting losses on gilts within a year of their purchase, (where the loss is not allowable) do not repurchase exactly the same gilt or you will find you have not established a loss for tax purposes. The commission on gilts is in any case much less than on shares.

6. Avoid bed and breakfasting too early in the tax year. There is always the possibility you might get caught out by an unexpected gain such as a takeover or similar development before April 5, thereby ending up with an unexpected tax liability.

7. Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



Income bonds

Business booms on rate cut hopes

SHORT TERM INCOME BONDS		
Company	Minimum Investment	Annual net yield*
Two-year bonds		
Premium Life	£500	11.5
Windsor Life	500	12.0
Four-year bonds		
Abbey Life	1,000	11.3-12.4
Camden	1,000	11.5-13.1
Canterbury Life	1,000	11
Credit and Commerce	500	12-13
Hill Samuel	1,000	11.25-12.0
Liberty Life	500	11.2-14
Lloyds Life	1,500	11.5
Pioneer Mutual	500	11.5-13.1
Providence Capital	1,000	11.7-14
Target	1,000	12.25-13.5
Transnational Life	1,000	11.75
Trident Life	1,000	12-14

*Net of basic rate tax. Variable yields improve with age.

**Variable yield improves over the period.

***12 per cent offered on a joint life basis.

very attractive one and two year bonds on the market paying about 18 per cent and 15 per cent respectively which pulled in some £30m before they were axed in the budget. So many face the decision of how to reinvest their money maturing from a one-year bond.

Before you reinvest this money in another income bond you should look into your tax relief position. The construction of the one-year bonds meant that you used up at least some of your tax relief quota for this year as well as last. You might not be eligible for further relief until the beginning of the next tax year in April, which will mean a lower yield from your bond than those shown in the table, at least for the first year.

Canon Assurance has designed a bond for those facing this problem. Its four-year bond, offering between 11.5 per cent and 13 per cent net of basic rate tax—slightly less than its standard bond—works in such a way that the first payment on the underlying annual premium policy is not paid until the beginning of the next tax year and therefore qualifies for tax relief.

Meanwhile, Liberty Life has come out with a scheme offering its one-year bond holders the option to leave the money invested for a further year for a return of 12.1 per cent. This is particularly attractive to the higher rate taxpayer as there is no further tax payable on this return. Not surprisingly, the company reports a two-thirds take up of its offer.

Act quickly if you want to take advantage of these high rates. If MLC is reduced in the Budget these rates might well come down too, although some companies are hopeful of keeping them on offer until the end of March. Nevertheless, rates will come down anyway in a few weeks time when the level of tax relief available falls from 17.5 per cent to 15 per cent.

A year ago there were some

Unit trusts

A fresh look at general funds

One of the biggest sectors of the unit trust industry is the classic medium fund (the middle-of-the-road funds which set out to achieve reasonable growth with reasonable income—have all too often been dismissed as fuddy-duddy and of little interest to anyone).

Certainly funds in this sector are not as exciting (or bumpy come to that) as those in the glamorous specialist or overseas sector, but that is not to say they have no fans. There are, after all, 84 unit trusts listed under this heading, a number exceeded only by the 94 income funds the industry boasts.

And the general sector embraces some of the biggest funds in the industry, headed by the £117m TSB General fund, second only in size to Save and Prosper's giant Investment Trust fund.

Part of the reason for their dominant position is that the majority are older funds which have been around for some time. Secondly, they have a useful vehicle for both professional intermediaries (solicitors and accountants) and trustees because of their combined virtues of rising income and capital growth.

But it was precisely this mixture which has led critics to label these funds as neither one thing nor the other, and therefore, arguably, not offering the best of both worlds, but the worst.

However, the Unit Trust Association's recent research into performance statistics has confounded the critics. Far from being the weakest element in the broadly-based, non-specialist funds—the general growth and income funds—the general funds turn out to be the winners.

Over 15 years, 10 years and five years, general funds outperformed the other two groups. The UTA's analysis is based

on the performance, reinvested income included, of each sector's medium fund (the middle fund, half way between the best and worst in order of rank).

The compound growth rates for the general fund over the three periods were 13.4 per cent over five years, 11.1 per cent over 10 years and 9.5 per cent over 15 years. The median growth rates were marginally lower at 13 per cent, 10.1 per cent and 8.4 per cent, while the income fund trailed behind with growth rates of 6.7 per cent, 4.4 per cent and 3.5 per cent respectively.

(Incidentally the showing of the income fund over the years punctures the still widely-held theory that if you want growth, invest in an income fund. There are, of course, limitations to the medium fund approach. It ignores, for example, the problem of weighting for the size of funds which a properly constructed average for the sector would hopefully show.

However, the figures should give a degree of confidence to the longer term investor who does not want to actively manage a unit trust portfolio—a limitation which effectively rules out investment in the specialist and overseas sectors.

Apart from the armchair investor and trustees wanting a

Self-employed pensions

Provision for premature death

Most self-employed people by the time they reach their early to mid-forties have fairly firm ideas about retirement. If you are in that position and have been contributing to a personal pension policy, no doubt you have decided when you will take your pension—and how you will spend or invest the tax-free lump sum which can be taken in exchange for giving up part of your pension.

But a significant proportion of those planning for retirement will die "in harness" and will not live to draw a pension. In that event, what happens to the contributions paid so far, even with the addition of interest?

The traditional approach by life offices has been to return the premiums paid to the date of death—with or without the addition of a fairly modest rate of interest.

Often a person with no dependants has been able to opt for no return of premiums in the event of a death—in exchange for a higher pension if he lives to enjoy it. Since a number of prospective pensioners do die, the smaller the return in the event of death the better should be the ultimate pension benefit.

A growing number of life offices are offering a "return of fund". This broadly means the value of the fund accumulated to date.

In cases where the pension contributions have been made for a number of years, the value of the fund (which invests on a tax-exempt basis) should be significantly greater than a return of premiums paid so far, even with the addition of interest at 6 per cent.

At one stage there was probably a fairly sound argument for not making too large a return in the event of early death where this would reduce the amount of the pension.

First, since the money could not be left to the next generation free from capital transfer tax (although it could go to a spouse free from CGT), it could be said that, at some stage, the value of any return might well be reduced by capital transfer tax.

Secondly, in the past, the level of pension contribution which could be made was quite modest. It was fair to say that those relatively modest contributions should buy a reasonable level of pension later all if extra life cover was needed, it could be bought in the open market (by anybody in good health), although full relief of tax could not be claimed on such premiums.

However, the position is different. Since the Finance Act 1980, returns by a life office in the event of early death can pass to the next generation on what should be a tax-free basis. This change applies not only to new premiums, but also to any premiums paid in the past.

If you would like this money (should it be payable) to pass to your children, grandchildren (or anybody else), a capital transfer tax contract your insurance company with which you have policies in force, and ask them to set the wheels in motion. Judging from personal experience, it may take time.

Apart from that, the higher levels of contribution which can now be paid do not make it so imperative to concentrate solely on pension. And they result in an even larger discrepancy between the fund with which a pension can be bought at retirement and the sum total of return of premiums (with interest) in the event of death shortly before retirement.

I can understand life offices feeling that they could be open to criticism if they make much less available at premature death than at retirement shortly afterwards. For that reason, more are likely to offer a return of fund in the event of early death.

Certainly, the return of fund approach does mean that, whatever life cover may be in force (or, nearing retirement, there will be an accumulating fund which will be paid out at death. And the capital sum involved (which would be considerable) can be free from capital transfer tax.

Perhaps, ideally, life offices should give a choice of return of fund, return of premiums plus a fixed rate of interest, return of premiums with no interest, or simply no return at all.

John Drummond

Margaret Stone

THE LARGEST GENERAL UNIT TRUSTS

	Em	Yield	Performance over 1 year	3 years	5 years
TSB General	117.7	4.5	16.8	54.0	
M & G General	99.1	6.2	12.1	52.7	
Guinness	88.7	4.8	20.7	58.2	
Save & Prosper UK Equity	58.2	4.6	22.6	57.0	
Barclays Unicorn 500	57.4	6.1	8.4	42.6	
Abbey General	56.3	5.1	20.8	41.4	

*To February 2, 1981.

Round-up

New whole life plan from Premium

Premium Life Assurance, the new life company launched last autumn, has been busy extending its range of products.

This week it has launched a unit-linked whole life policy, a type of contract which is growing in popularity. The cost of the life cover on the Capital Protection Plan is fixed for 10 years. If the underlying fund grows by more than 7.5 per cent a year during the period, the sum assured is increased.

The policy also allows policyholders to add an extra amount of low cost term insurance to the policy and the opportunity of increasing the value of life cover each year in line with inflation.

The company has also added two new funds to its range. Investors have the opportunity of linking their policies to an

American Technology fund, managed by Invesco Funds (Management), part of the Investment Intelligence group or to a building society linked fund which offers a guaranteed return equal to the recommended rate on ordinary share accounts.

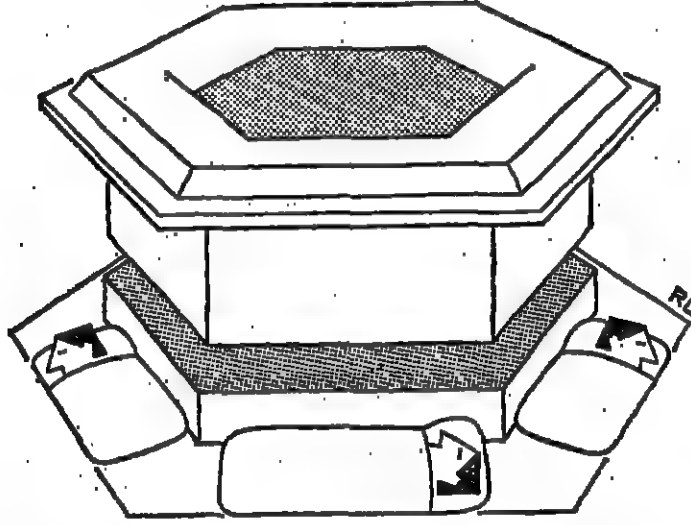
Equity & Law has joined the growing list of life assurance companies prepared to offer a loan to policyholders with a unit-linked self-employed pension plan.

Minimum loan from the company is £5,000 with additional loans of £2,500 against a collateral of property or a portfolio of stocks and shares. Loans up to 70 per cent of the value of such assets are available (subject, of course, to the value of the units in the fund).

The availability of these

loans means those eligible to take out a personal pension plan can contribute as much as possible to their schemes without irrevocably locking away their money until they retire. And it is a facility which is in demand. Since it launched the first such scheme in last November, Vanbrugh Life has seen "a flood of new business" with average premiums paid more than double the level of last autumn.

If you have got used to popping in to your local Lewis's Bank to cash cheques outside normal banking hours you could be in for a nasty shock next week. The bank is introducing a charge of 50p for those who do not have an account with Lewis's or Lloyds Bank for cheques presented for payment outside the hours of 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.



Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey



Nationwide Capital Bonds are right for you, right for your money.

You've got some capital and want to make the most of it. Nationwide Capital Bonds give you a very wide choice. They guarantee extra interest above our variable Ordinary Share rate. The table shows the extra interest

guaranteed for the initial term and the present interest rates based on our current Share rate of 9.25%.

There are over 1,000 Nationwide branches and agency branches. Call in at your local branch or post the coupon.

GUARANTEED EXTRA INTEREST

Capital Bonds guarantee you extra interest at the rate appropriate for the initial term you select. The longer you invest, the higher the interest rate. And you get all your extra interest right from the start.

STAY ON TOP RATES

If you choose a Bond of less than 5 years and then decide to leave your money invested, your extra interest will increase each year up to a maximum in the 5th and subsequent years. So you have a long term option from a short term investment.

WITHDRAWAL OPTION

At the end of the initial term selected you can withdraw all your investment. Or you can leave it to earn up to its highest interest at only 3 months' notice of repayment by the investor or the society.

WIDER CHOICE

You can choose one or more Capital Bonds from the range and the table shows the current rates. You can invest any sum over £500 in multiples of £1 in any one Bond.

GREATER CAPITAL GROWTH

You can leave your interest invested in the Bond for even faster capital growth. For example, a 5 year Bond now offers 11.25% which compounds to an annual rate of 11.57%, worth 16.53% gross to basic rate taxpayers.

MORE MONTHLY INCOME

You can have your Capital Bond interest as regular monthly income, paid to a Nationwide Share Account, bank or Giro account. For example £5,000 with an initial 5 year term pays £46.87 a month at current rates.

The Nationwide Building Society, FREEPOST London WC1V 6XA.

I/We enclose a cheque for £ to be invested in a Nationwide Capital Bond for an initial term of 1 year ☐ 2 years ☐ 3 years ☐ 4 years ☐ 5 years ☐ Interest is to be compounded ☐ or paid monthly ☐

Your total investment in all your Nationwide accounts must not exceed £20,000 (£40,000 for a joint account). No withdrawals are possible during the initial Bond term selected except following the death of an investor.



Full Name(s) _____

Address _____

Date _____

Initial Extra+	Term Interest	Gross†	Net*	£500-£20,000
5 yrs	16.07%	11.25%		
4 yrs	15.36%	10.75%		
3 yrs	14.64%	10.25%		
2 yrs	14.29%	10.00%		
1 yr	13.93%	9.75%		

*guaranteed above the prevailing Ordinary Share Account rate which may vary
†gross to income tax payers. Whole rate before tax paid.

It pays to decide Nationwide

هكذا من الأصل

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS

Computers

Every home should have one

The explosion of the television games market and the exposure given to computers, even at primary school level, to the uses and fun of the microchip has brought increasing pressure to bear on parents to "get with it".

The domestic market is still small in comparison to the growing demand from the small business market but it is destined to be a growth area over the next few years as the full potential of the microcomputer at home is realized.

Using the household computer to manage domestic finance will be one chore that the average family could easily develop. All bank statements and bills to be paid will act as the basic data for the system. Each morning the user can key in the date and will be told the bills still outstanding, their last day for payment, the bank balance and the next payment into the bank account from the employer. The system requires to be updated by the user every time a bill is received or indeed as money is spent. Insurance records, share portfolios, even family birthdays can be fed into the system.

The computer with the proper software can act as a word-processor or text editor. All letters, essays or personal notes can be written on the screen (using a keyboard) and can be electronically edited in seconds without the necessity of retyping. Words, letters and paragraphs can be removed or replaced at will.

Details of every telephone call can be entered into the microcomputer and checked off against the new telephone bill which is expected to be available from British Telecom through its new digital System X exchanges in the future.

Also the telephone and the electricity meter could be connected to the computer and give the householder a daily update of usage and cost. And when the appropriate technology arrives lighting, heating and air conditioning in the home may well be controlled by the same microcomputer.

Manufacturers like Commodore, Tandy, Apple have dominated the microcomputer market.

The personal computer sector will see new products for business and the home coming from Texas Instruments, Xerox, Hewlett-Packard, IBM and the Japanese Nippon Electric, in the near future.

Last April Texas Instru-



Children—and dolls—are a likely target market for microcomputer salesmen.

ments launched its personal computer in London equipped with its own speech unit.

For a little over £1,000 comes a small computer unit/keyboard and a 14in colour television set. Other designs like the British-made Nascom and the Sinclair or the American Tandy, Apple and the latest from Commodore are all intended to allow the user the option of using his own domestic television receiver as the display unit, so saving cost.

The highly successful PET Commodore microcomputer, which has sold over 18,000 units to schools, colleges and universities throughout the United Kingdom is a unit complete with screen, keyboard and the microelectronics. It sells for about £475.

So what do you look for when buying a microcomputer?

It all depends what you expect from the device. If you want one to perform most operations only and to have limited use then the Sinclair microcomputer retailing for around £100 could be sufficient.

Generally speaking the basic "hardware" of the microcomputer will cost between £100 and £1,400. The choice will ultimately depend on how much

storage the user might need for his data and programming instructions. These storage sizes vary from model to model. Most commonly available are those with 8,000 characters (8K bytes) capacity or 16,000 characters (16K bytes). The number of programs to be used in the computer will dictate what space is left for information or data to be stored.

These programs or "software" now cover a vast range of activities. There are literally hundreds of programs that can be bought off-the-shelf for just a few pounds. Apart from the plethora of television games best seen in the hardware and software of the Atari) teaching aids for the home user include cookery, algebra, modern languages and mathematical games.

The typical program for home use would vary in price from about £2 to £25.

The programs are normally "loaded" into the computer's internal store (8K or 16K) from the instructions contained on a cassette tape. After the program has been loaded, the tapes can be removed and a blank one put in its place to be used for storing calculations or data.

The tapes used for storage

are the standard sizes—C12, C30, C60, C90, C120 which retail from about 50p each. The numbers refer to the running time of the tape. Although the longer running tapes can at first sight appear to be more economical it can sometimes be very difficult to locate the particular piece of data you want.

This is where the disc excels. There are two basic types available to the microcomputer user—the floppy and the hard. The disc, which can only be played on specially designed disc drives, allow the user instant access to that particular part of the disc, containing the specific item of information required. For about £400 a tape drive able to store between 120,000 and 150,000 characters can be added to the basic microcomputer system.

The cost of the hardware is falling, as is that of the more standard software packages. It may be that such a trend could cause the purchasing explosion which is expected to occur with acquisition, or merge with a similar group.

LEG wants to expand its tool distribution group. It built up a 20 per cent share in Newman Industries and was within a whisker of buying when Singapore-based Cycle & Carriage came in with an 8m cash injection. The share diluting LEG's holding to 12 per cent and putting LEG out of the running.

The group has also talked to Howard Machinery and Record

Stock markets

Rally brings gains across the board

The market recovered from ICI's figures on Thursday to end the three week account with gains across the board.

The FT Index once again broke through the barrier to close at 506.6. The rise was the result of a recovery in the group's recovery prospects and the shares, opening at 260p rose 6p on the day but ended back at 260p.

With investors firmly convinced of a cut—some say 4 per cent—in M&L it was the electronics, brewery and insurance sectors which saw the largest movements on the back of dividend increases. Excellent results from Plessey on Thursday kept electronics well to the fore, aided by defence spending prospects highlighted by Mrs Thatcher's visit to the White House. Plessey, itself up 4p to 323p, led the sector with Ferranti improving 35p to 560p.

The thin market followed by GEC up 7p to 652p, Rascal adding 6p to 370p, and Thorn EMI, picking up 2p to 314p.

The new Budget account next week is not thought to alter these as "safe stocks" and

two-way business is expected to continue.

Glits did not take strength from the firm atmosphere elsewhere but lagged behind waiting for the new tap issue. After fully discounting the £500m 3 per cent Treasury 1986 issue, stocks saw a quiet day. Longs, after opening £1 easier, recovered £1 by the close.

Sizeable buying, some from the Continent, has lifted Bluebird Confectionery (the old Harry Vincent toffee group) by 14p to 68p this week. Effectively controlled by Mr Edward Nassar, with a 48 per cent stake, Bluebird is busy developing property, using the good profits it makes from sweets.

Shorts also saw quiet conditions, recouping the £1 lost earlier by the close.

Although the FT Index dropped 1.5 points in the morning to 493.6, it climbed steadily through the day to sit at 506.6 at 3 pm, but after hours trading sent it up to close at 506.6.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Allen Harvey (F)	—	0.7 (0.65)	11.1 (10.68)	15	21/4	10.5 (9.35)
Alliance Trust (F)	—	0.1 (0.05)	—	—	—	—
Alcon (F)	8.1 (5.8)	0.005 (0.008)	—	1.0	—	2.0 (N)
Bond St Fabrics (F)	8.6 (8.1)	0.28 (0.25)	—	4.35	2/4	—
Fledgling Inv (F)	—	0.7 (0.83)	—	—	—	—
Kinick (I)	0.7 (0.58)	0.55 (0.58)	2.26 (3.96)	0.7	27/4	1.2 (1.2)
North Capital (F)	—	0.66 (0.71)	—	1.03 (1.03)	—	—
R. & J. Pullman (I)	10.1 (9.85)	0.25 (0.12)	—	0.03 (0.28)	—	—
Raine Eng (I)	5.39 (7.74)	0.75 (0.81)	—	—	—	—
Sec Alliance (I)	—	0.005 (0.002)	—	—	—	—
Stewart & Wright (I)	0.09 (0.1)	0.21 (0.20)	—	2.8 (2.8)	1/4	—
Tor Inv Trust (I)	—	—	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on dividends per share. Earnings are shown gross except where noted. Dividends are shown net of tax. * = Net. † = Loss.

Decision time soon for LEG

By Philip Robinson

Property group turned engineering and tool distributor London & European Group looks like having to decide this month whether it is to expand by acquisition, or merge with a similar group.

LEG wants to expand its tool distribution group. It built up a 20 per cent share in Newman Industries and was within a whisker of buying when Singapore-based Cycle & Carriage came in with an 8m cash injection. The share diluting LEG's holding to 12 per cent and putting LEG out of the running.

The group has also talked to Howard Machinery and Record

Ridge. But in writing together the capital bid it has attracted the attention of predators.

LEG has been selling its properties and has so far obtained £2.2m. Those remaining have just been revalued at £8.2m and the bid, the group would be debt-free with around £7m in cash.

Mr John O'Hara, LEG's chief executive who is expected to be appointed to the main board next month, said yesterday: "We would like to expand by acquisition, but would be prepared to talk to others. However it would have to be an agreed merger."

The board has little shareholding control, and despite a

number of attempts, LEG has been unable to find the investors behind an 11.7 per cent stake in Cedar Point Inc of Sandusky, Ohio, which runs amusement parks and recreation centres. The agreed bid will be at \$34.95 (£15.8) a share. Pearson already has about 10 per cent of Cedar and if its offer is successful the resulting 25 per cent stake will have cost £29.6m before expenses. This would be met from the group's existing resources and banking facilities.

Garnar expects loss of £195,000 for year

Garnar Scofield estimates a pre-tax loss for the year to January 31 of about £195,000. In its document for the acquisition of Booth (International Holdings) — Garnar says it traded profitably in the second half.

Garnar considers it too early to forecast results for the current year. However, all factories are maintaining a reasonable level of production and skin and hide prices have, to some extent, stabilised. There has also been some improvement in demand.

The document puts Booth's pre-tax loss for 1980 at about £14m — this figure shows a break-even situation in the second half of 1980 and no dividend. Garnar proposes to change its name to Garnar Booth.

S. Pearson buys more of Cedar Point

S. Pearson and Son is making an offer for a further 15 per cent stake in Cedar Point Inc of Sandusky, Ohio, which runs amusement parks and recreation centres. The agreed bid will be at \$34.95 (£15.8) a share. Pearson already has about 10 per cent of Cedar and if its offer is successful the resulting 25 per cent stake will have cost £29.6m before expenses. This would be met from the group's existing resources and banking facilities.

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Investor's week

Royal rally papers over ICI gloom

A totem has toppled. But down in the stock market hardly anyone noticed.

A few years ago ICI losing money and cutting its dividend (for the first time since 1938) would have sent shock waves through the stock market. But not last Thursday. Investors were quick to slash millions off ICI shares when the 26 per cent total dividend cut became known.

The market blinked and then went on with its right royal rally. Up went the FT index on

the week from 488.4 to 506.6. What, according to taste, went right or wrong?

The truth is that ICI does not matter to the market as much as it did. This week the Department of Employment reported that since the middle of 1979 that industry had discharged one out of nine of its workers and the decline continues.

Other parts of manufacturing have left the private sector, and gobbling money in the public one. One way and another

industry does not count for so much on the stock exchange and that automatically goes for ICI. But this is not the end of it. ICI is not now regarded by many as our best run group. It is in fact run by a large committee, by no means the same thing.

ICI is also attacked for not streamlining hard enough at the onset of recession, one reason why its figures look so awful now. In its own way the market has in fact been acting away at the totem's base. ICI shares have under-performed since the early seventies, and they are now at a five-year low. Bell-wethers do not lead from behind.

So ICI was trampled in the institutional rush to get into shares. They were driven by fears of missing the next boom. The Bank of England underlined the move to cheaper money by dropping the reserve rate and the banks maintained with the Bank of England from 10 per cent to 8 per cent, thereby pumping money into the system. The ratio goes back to 10 per cent on March 10 of course, but

then money should be a lot cheaper.

Institutions sense that a worried Government is now more intent on filling jobs than on curbing prices as it hastens to retake the middle ground of politics. In time for the next election.

Only weeks ago many were content to stick to gilt-edged, safe in the knowledge that ordinary shares could wait their turn as the economy picked up only slowly. But with hard money out and inflation coming back in, this has suddenly become no time to be too closely tied to gilt-edged. The big boys, in fear of being left at the post, are hurrying into ordinary shares.

It was also a week when defensive stocks, especially financials, looked under the weather as investment interest turned elsewhere. National Westminster reported a jump in bad debt provisions and lower profits for last year while Lloyds revealed only a tiny advance.

Peter Wainwright

Cost of new shops slows Pullman

By Our Financial Staff

Clothing group R & J Pullman says it has built up a 20 per cent share in Newman Industries and was within a whisker of buying when Singapore-based Cycle & Carriage came in with an 8m cash injection. The share diluting LEG's holding to 12 per cent and putting LEG out of the running.

Higher interest charges and the cost of acquiring and stocking new shops have hit profits. No benefit has been taken in from the company's 65 per cent stake in B. Paradies.

The second half so far has seen demand continuing at a high level, especially in fur, leather and sheepskins.

First-ever loss for Raine

By Our Financial Staff

Raine Engineering Industries made a loss for the first time in its history in the first half of 1980-81. Mr Michael Taylor, the chairman, reported yesterday.

The Sheffield company's interim results to December 31 showed a £256,000 loss compared to a £124,000 profit in the previous year. The group is paying a token dividend of 0.43p gross to preserve its trustee status. Interest costs rose 5 per cent to £291,000. After tax relief of £275,000, the net interim profit is £19,000, against £118,000.

Mr Taylor said that the group's second-half performance is "normally better than the first half". The building industry, the bulk of their contribution in the final months of the group's year. But in 1979-80, the engineering sector hit Raine severely in its second half, and left it with a gross profit of only £162,000 for the full year.

Meanwhile, housing subsidiary P. Bassall has bought General Housing (Derby). Mr Taylor made no forecast for the year, but said he hoped that the worst is now over.

Briefly

Mergers cleared: The proposed acquisition by Tarmac of a majority shareholding in Thomas Wither is not to be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Fledgling Investments: Gross revenue for year to January 21 £48,500 (£40,000). Net profit £28,700 (£23,000). Loss carried 125p x 1 (10p x 1). Dividend 4.35p net.

Stewart and Wright: No interim dividend. Profit for half year to September 30, £3,500 (£2,000). Turnover £99,500 (£102,500). Consideration of dividend will be made when year's results are available.

Minor Holdings: Agreement in principle has been reached with Nedbank Group to merge their South African insurance broking interests. The new merged group will be Minor SA Insurance Holdings. It will be one of the most powerful insurance broking groups in South Africa with a turnover in excess of £7m.

Finance: The £1.25m 15p gross (£1.35p) for year to January 31. Gross revenue £10,04m (£9,14m). Net revenue available £48,500 (£40,000). Loss carried 125p x 1 (10p x 1). Dividend 4.35p net.

Interim 2.5p net (same). Board intends to recommend a final dividend of at least 5.5p as forecast. Net per share 70.2p x 1 and capital share 327.7p on same basis.

Wholesale: Fittings: Throgmorton Trust has sold 240,000 shares registered in name of Throgmorton Street Nominees, leaving holding 139,000 shares (£34 pence).

Leopold: Joseph: Stirling: Fund: No dividend for 52 weeks to December 29 1980. Revenue deficit for year £14,000 (revenue for period £17,000). Capital account—gains on realisation of investments during year £773,500 (period £22,000). Loss carried 125p x 1 (10p x 1). Dividend 4.35p net.

Richards and Wallington Industries: Board announced that in November 1980, the company would be very disappointing and would not expect to recommend any dividend for the year. Half-yearly dividend on 10p cent redeemable preference shares due February 23 is not being paid.

Bottom: Trestle Mill: Turnover for half-year to October 31, 1980 £5.1m (£3.8m). Net loss £100,000 (profit £30,000) after nil tax (£33,000). Fitted: Includes a loss of £150,000 relating to the closure of a subsidiary.

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crdts	14%
C. Hoare & Co.	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
TSE	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposit on sum of £10,000 and under 11% p.a. up to £50,000 12% p.a. 12% p.a. 12% p.a.

Profit made 'on the side'

I am one of three equal directors of a small limited company. Two of us deal with the production side and leave selling and office management to our co-director, who occasionally receives gifts from customers. He says these are an expression of their gratitude for his expediting orders or making deliveries in his own time. We think this is unbusinesslike, first, because our customers already pay a fair price and secondly we do not wish to find ourselves in a position where we might be under a moral obligation to give them preference, for example, in times of shortage. Could you kindly let us know what the



Readers' Forum
This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of Ronald Irving, John Drummond and Tony Foreman

legal position is in this type of situation? (RM, Coventry).

A director must observe the utmost good faith towards the company, that is, he must act in the best interests of the company and not for himself. He must not do anything, for example, accept gifts which might reasonably be expected to give rise to a conflict between his private interests and his duties as a director. Although a director, he is nevertheless an employee of the company and an employee is permitted to keep any profit he makes "on the side" unless this is a recognized custom of the trade, for example, tips to waiters or taxi drivers.

Admittedly he has put himself out by making deliveries in his own time but this was in the course of his employment. His co-directors are entitled to insist that "perks" are handed over to the company or

returned to the customers concerned on the ground that they might reasonably be expected to give rise to a situation where he might favour a customer's interest to the detriment of the company.

You can raise the matter at the next annual general meeting and ask that a resolution be passed to forbid the practice. Alternatively, if it is urgent you could as a director call an extraordinary general meeting to deal with the matter on giving at least 14 days notice.

I am self-employed, and am looking around for a pension contract. What is the difference between a contract funding for "cash" and one funding for "pension"? (DM, Manchester).

With the former, your contributions accumulate so as, at retirement, to provide a cash sum. That is used to purchase an annuity at the time, and provides a whole market from which to choose. Your ultimate pension, therefore, will depend on annuity rates at the time—which fluctuate in line with market rates of interest.

The second course guarantees a pension and bonuses increase the amount of pension. Your pension is not so dependent on interest rates when you retire. Broadly, if interest rates are high when you retire, the "cash" type of contract will be best, but the "pension" type will prove best if, at the time, interest rates should be low.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212
The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Gross Div	Yld %	P/E
75	39	Alpsprung Group	63	-1	6.7	10.6	5.7
44	21	Armistage & Rhodes	43	+1	1.4	3.3	17.7
192	92	Bardon Hill	189	-	9.7	5.1	7.1
98	88	Deborah Services	94	-1	5.5	5.9	4.7
126	88	Frank Horsell	106	-	6.4	5.0	3.3
110	51	Frederick Parker	51	-	11.0	21.6	2.3
110	74	George Blair	75	-	3.1	4.1	—
110	39	Jackson Group	107	-	6.9	6.4	4.1
124	103	James Burrough	119	-	7.9	6.6	9.8
334	244	Robert Jenkins	330	-	31.3	9.5	—
55	50	Scruttons 'A'	53	-1	5.3	10.0	3.9
224	215	Torday Limited	216	-	15.1	7.0	3.7
23	10	Twindell Ord	11	-	—	—	—
90	69	Twinkl 15% ULS	71	-	15.0	21.1	—
96	35	Unilock Holdings	42	-1	3.0	7.1	6.5
103	81	Walter Alexander	103	-	5.7	5.5	5.7
263	181	W. S. Yeates	260	-	12.1	4.7	4.2

Commodities

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Man Pen Fund	213.4	132.9	153.6	Pen Gen
Man Pen Cup	29.1	147.2	131.4	Pen Grd
Man Pen Fund	203.3	187.4	164.3	Pen Trn
De Pen Gap	178.9	48.3	49.0	Trn In
Blitz Soc Pen	108.5			
De Capital	132.1			
Coll Pen Fund	17.4			
De Pen Gap	113.2			
Life Assurance of London Ltd				
Rate, London, 500,000 GP, 01-247 3300				
Unit Scheme	399.6	368.8		

[illegible][illegible]

مَكْنَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Stock Exchange Prices

Firm end to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, March 13. Settlement Day, March 23
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

1980/81 High Low Company Price Ch'ge pence % P/E				1980/81 High Low Company Price Ch'ge pence % P/E				1980/81 High Low Company Price Ch'ge pence % P/E				1980/81 High Low Company Price Ch'ge pence % P/E			
BRITISH FUNDS															
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN															
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
LOCAL AUTHORITIES															
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
DOLLAR STOCKS															
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
BANKS AND DISCOUNTS															
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
BREWERS AND DISTILLERS															
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL															
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
FINANCIAL TRUSTS															
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
INSURANCE															
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
INVESTMENT TRUSTS															
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
PROPERTY															
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
RUBBER															
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
TEA															
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
MISCELLANEOUS															
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
RECENT ISSUES															
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81
1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81	1000000	Each	1980/81	1980/81

Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing

For most of us the greatest boon to bedding has been the advent of easy-care, and for that we have to thank America, where the European tradition of professional laundering has never been adopted because of the early development of home washing machines and drip dry fabrics.

Americans play as hard as they work and they therefore prize their leisure far too highly to spend any of it ironing. When I stayed with friends in Florida recently and wanted to press my allegedly drip-dry shirt, my hostess could not even find her iron as she hadn't used it for four months. When they say non-iron, you'd better believe it.

The quality of their polyester cotton mixtures is therefore, I have to admit, a great deal better than ours and their designs are stunningly original. Seasoned trans-Atlantic travellers learn long ago to take large enough suitcases to bring back treasures unthought of in this country, but now you don't even need the air fare—a trip to Downing Hill will reward you with a selection of some of the best designs from the top American producers.

There, at 190 Kensington Park Road, London W11, is a shop called Between the Sheets, recently opened by two American designers, Clark Hamford and his partner, Tony Baharik, who are specializing in high quality percale sheets at remarkably competitive prices.

Percale sounds like a man-made fibre, but in fact refers originally to a very finely woven cotton and is now used also for polyester cotton mixtures which have a weave of 180 threads per inch. Supercal is even finer, with 200 threads per inch and this, plus the fibre blend, makes the fabric really easy-care.

There are 17 designs from the romantic to the geometric, many by top fashion names including Dior, St. Laurent and Geoffrey Beene. The trend is away from the deep colours to gentler pastels—multi-coloured barlequin diamonds, delicately shaded feathers, full blown flowers, sophisticated checks. Muppet fans can even go to bed with Kermit the Frog.

One of the prettiest sets is in all white Supercal with broderie anglaise trimming—a fitted double sheet, trimmed top sheet and two matching pillowcases costs £28.50, with matching valance £28—the idea of all

that embroidery being drip dry is a delight. All the items are available individually—single fitted sheets cost from £8.50, single flat sheets £8.75, pillowcases £5.50 per pair. Double, queen size and king size are also available and duvet covers can be made to order. For more details telephone 01-727 8768.

Right: white drip dry Supercal polyester and cotton sheet set trimmed with broderie anglaise. Two double sheets and two pillowcases, £28.50, plus £1.50 p & p. Other sizes available. From Between the Sheets, 190 Kensington Park Road, London, W11. Far right: white percale polyester and cotton sheets set splashed with brilliant tulips in red, yellow, blue and green. Two single sheets and two pillowcases, £21.75, plus £1.50 p & p. Other sizes available. From Between the Sheets 190 Kensington Park Road, London, W11.

In the infinitable way in which this country is never prepared for the extremes of weather it thinks it never gets, my local electricity board was unable to cope with the load caused by six inches of snow in my area and developed a fault which cut me off from all sources of light and heat. I survived with the help of a Calor Gas Super Ser heater

bought during the last power cut in London, 14 candles to light my typewriter and, when the carbon dioxide cocoon I thus created in my study became unbearable, the comfort of the sheer weight of my old fashioned bedding. I know duvets are supposed to be as warm as cotton, wool and down, but I have never been able to get along with them. For me

they are too hot in summer, slip off in winter and have nothing at all to offer except being easy to handle when you are not actually under them. I admit I am one of a geriatric if not actually dying breed. According to the Continental Quilt Association, sales have been rising steadily since major stores took up duvets in a big way in 1970 and it is now only

the "older age group" who refuse to be converted. It seems, though, that I am not alone in finding them less than perfect, for the latest trend is to have a thinner, quilted cover called a comforter for summer use. If you have to buy two quilts to cope with variations in temperature, why not stick to the old sheet/blanket/duvet combination?

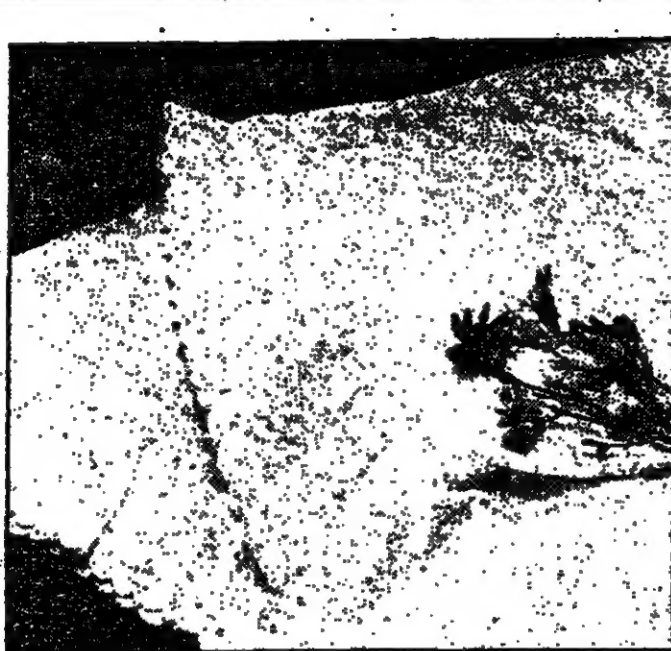
When they were first introduced here in the late 60s continental quilts were taken up by the "colour supplement market" but their appeal has now gone downmarket and is achieving mass sales. I strongly suspect that had they been around in the 50s when Professor Alan Ross invented the U and non-U formula which Nancy Mitford expanded and got all the credit for, they would have got a social thumbs down for typifying a servile society. Today the only place you do not find duvets are hotels, who "don't like to have to cope with complaints" (sic) and palaces—two of the few places left where maids of all work do not masquerade under the name of housewife.

Indeed palaces—particularly Middle Eastern ones—among the few households left which can still afford the luxury of silk sheets, and they buy them in dozens of pairs from the people who have always specialized in very upper class linens. The White House, at 51/52 New Bond Street, London, W1.

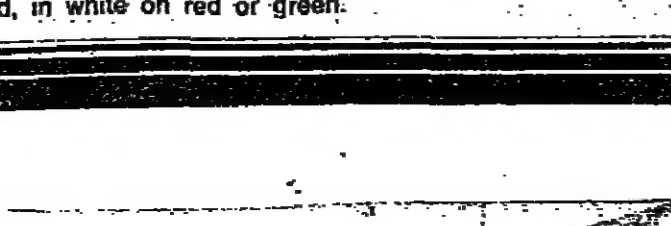
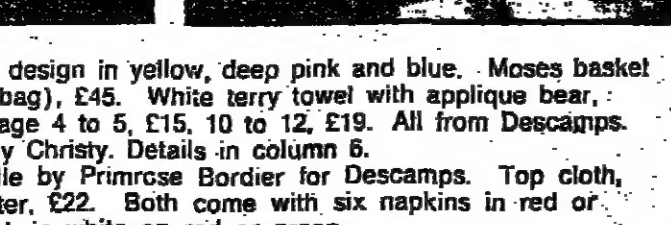
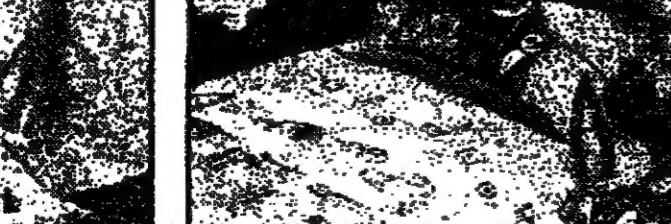
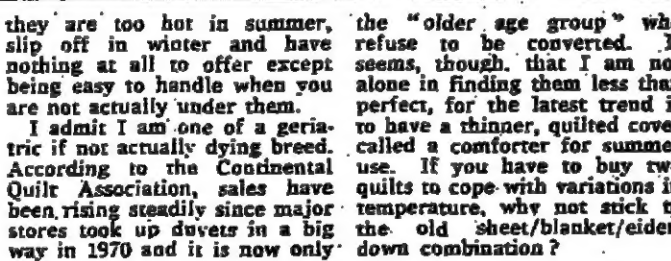
Poly/cotton is a word hardly breached in those elegant halls (the shop was once an art gallery) and the arched corridors still give you the impression that you are about to come across an undiscovered old master. They pride themselves on being competitive on plain Egyptian cotton sheets at £23.65 a pair, with pillowcases and Merino wool blankets from £30 (no duvets, of course) but their real joy is in providing a service obtainable elsewhere.

There is, for instance, only one worker left in Ireland now in her 80s; who still does the hand drawn spoke/spoke design and her sheets are available only at The White House. As a pair they have hand embroidered Madeira work done on cambric linen, which is no longer made commercially—they had to bring people back from retirement to weave it specially for them. There is also a special hand service that you can have sheets and towels embroidered to match your furnishings—or even your breakfast set.

Most of the rest of the bed linen is made exclusively for them in France and I have to admit that until I saw it I would not have believed that the quality of anything as basic as a sheet could be as instantly recognizable as is the cut of haute couture. I am not sure that I could sleep at all between sheets costing £750 a pair, but



Above: large continental-style square pillowcase with hand-made lace and, behind, with machine embroidery. Both made in Germany around 1920. Each style is available in matching pairs, £28 pair. Pillows, about 30in square, made to fit from £14 each. From Lunns Antiques, 86 New King's Road, London, SW6.



Those of you who join me in praise of older linen will be enchanted by a shop devoted to Victorian and Edwardian lace and hand embroidery, not only on tablecloths, pillowcases and bedcovers, but also on clothes—blouses, petticoats, night-dresses.

The whole shop is like a set for the Snow Goose—festooned from ceiling to floor in drifts of white cotton and linen. When the owners, Stephen and Juliet Lunns first opened three years ago, the shop front was devoted to furniture and prints, while the lace was confined to the back room—a small collection bought by Juliet from market stalls simply because she enjoyed wearing it.

So many other people share that enjoyment that the contents of the small back room began to overflow into the main shop, until it became obvious that the furniture would have to go. The Lunns now have one of the largest collections of old lace and embroidery in the country and are probably the only dealers specializing in all-white.

Their stock covers a period from 1850 to the 1930s and they have a splendid selection of pillowcases, mostly made in Germany around 1920 for the large square pillows favoured on the Continent. Some are trimmed with 'lace', some with broderie anglaise, others with very fine machine embroidery. They are available in £28 or sturdy at £12 and £14 each. The large pillows to fit can be made with various fillings from curled feathers to pure down from £14 to £38 each.

There are also fine linen Edwardian sheets at £85 each and bolsters at £24. The most magnificent example of handwork is a linen bedspread over 100 years old and decorated with several types of lace and embroidery—needlepoint Irish lace, cut work and broderie anglaise among them. This is £400, but there are a few modern reproductions, too, beautifully embroidered in China but on lightweight cotton. This type of bedspread would be around £100, but would certainly not withstand the years of laundering that the fine quality linens have already undergone.

Indeed, for the fastidious, it is the fact that all this apparently delicate work can be boiled that makes second-hand bedding and clothing acceptable—only the most valuable and fragile work needs special treatment. There are minutely tucked, long sleeved Victorian nightdresses with frilled cuffs or lace Edwardian blouses with high collars, both from £35, little broderie anglaise camisoles from £10 to £25, petticoats pretty enough to wear as skirts for £15 to £20.

Antique lace, in fact, is considered by experts to be considerably cheaper today than when it was made—apart, of course, from the rare examples such as the earliest known, called mummy lace, made in Egypt many centuries BC and now in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Needle and bobbin lace as we now know it, began early in the fifteenth century in Italy and became important in France from about 1600 years later. In England some form of lace has been made since Anglo Saxon times but it was not widely made until the mid-seventeenth century when refugees from the Low Countries, persecuted by Philip II, settled in the west country, where Honiton became the most famous centre for the craft.

As lace making developed here, heavy duties were levied on imports and lace smuggling began—often brought into the country in coffins, with or without an occupant. Fines of £1 per yard plus confiscation were imposed on imported lace by William of Orange, but flanders lace was extremely expensive. To pay £20 or £40 a yard, £10 for a handkerchief and several hundreds of pounds for collar and large pieces was considered a small fortune.

Even when made in larger quantities in this country, Queen Mary, according to Pat Earnshaw in *The Identification of Lace* (Shire Publications, £3.95) was paying £12 a yard and during 1894 managed to get through a quantity worth £15,000 to get through a quantity worth £15,000. Even when made in larger quantities in this country, Queen Mary, according to Pat Earnshaw in *The Identification of Lace* (Shire Publications, £3.95) was paying £12 a yard and during 1894 managed to get through a quantity worth £15,000 to get through a quantity worth £15,000.

Strangely, some of that seventeenth century lace can now be found at auction for as little as £2 a yard. So, whether you are a serious collector or simply an admirer of beautiful handwork, you will find a trip to the far end of the King's Road rewarding and interesting. Lunns' Antiques are at 86 New King's Road, Parsons Green, London, SW6, 01-736 4638.

Today Harrods is going British. In an international store importing goods from all over the world the fact that by far the largest proportion of their merchandise comes from Britain is a fact that is becoming easy to overlook, so today they begin the largest promotion they have ever staged, *Hoist the Flag*.

Every department will be displaying the best of British from bedding and furniture to fashion and food, and there will be special demonstrations throughout the four-week promotion—among them saddle making, rug weaving and clock making. A coloured *Hoist the Flag* brochure gives details and details of events.

Among the most unusual exhibits will be the largest teapot in the world, holding 500 cups, an enormous pork pie in the shape of the British Isles (you can order one for £115) and two Broadwood pianos, one used by Chopin in 1847 and the other by Clara in 1844.

The credit for the idea, which has taken 18 months to complete, goes to merchandiser, director Rex Cannon. It is an excellent promotion and one which deserves every success as, of course, every piece of British goods sold is a boost to the British goods industry. I just wish it had not been confined to only one store in the Fraser group. Then it would feel rather more like a boost for Britain and a little less like a sales platform for Harrods.

Last year I suggested to another store in the Fraser group that just such a promotion should be mounted throughout the country. I had been prompted by a letter, in response to an offer of British goods sold in Harrods' week, from Mr. H. Imrie Swainston, chairman of John Dron Limited.

He told me that at the worst period of the 1931 slump Lord Woolton, then Frederick Marquis and chairman of Lewis's, limited, cleared the largest floor of his Manchester store, brought in his central buyers and allocated a stall to each, on which he showed a sample of everything he was importing. Through the Board of Trade

A gas oven which incorporates a heated storage drawer on the lines of an electric serving trolley has been introduced by Cannon. It allows food to be kept warm between cooking and serving at a temperature which does not dry out the food.

The "Serving" drawer, beneath the oven, which is designed to fit into standard 1,000mm x 600mm kitchen cabinets, is fitted with two even-to-tableware containers which fit into a rack which can also be reversed to accommodate plates. The interior of the drawer measures 455 x 540 x 200mm. The oven has a drop down door and tinted glass viewing

There are no half measures about cat addicts—anything to do with the object of their obsession has instant appeal and if you don't happen to have the same attraction for their evil misadventure, companion you run the risk of ruining a beautiful relationship.

They all, of course, attribute human feelings to their furry friends, a fact well recognized by Sven Hartzman and Thomas Hartner in their delightful portrayal of a very smooth operator called Jacob whose far exploits are pictured in a book of cat tales (Bantam, £3.95) published on Monday.

The story, illustrated with colourful cat cartoons, follows Jacob's introduction to a human household and his subsequent attempts to bend it to his will. It is charmingly written and presented and the truth of Jacob's supercilious attitude to the frailty of human nature is only too recognizable by anyone who has ever lost his marbles in a cat. An irresistible present available direct from the publishers if you are unable to find it in your local bookshop. Write to: Bibles, Glenside Industries, Eastle, Star Road, Burslem, West Sussex, adding 72p p&pp.

and Federation of British Industries, he obtained a list of over 100 British manufacturers likely to be able to make these goods and he sent an invitation to each to visit the exhibition, that he would order any British goods that he could supply, at the same price as the foreign price.

As a result, more than 100 orders were received for British goods, and Mr. Harrods, following a similar operation in London in cooperation with John Lewis partnership, Indes, Harrods and J. Another £3.5m was raised. The total at today's prices would be worth in the region of £10m.

The point that impressed me about this story is the vision shown by the various stores. When I asked Mr. Alcock, managing director of Harrods, whether a promotion of British goods had been considered, he said:

"Each part of the Fraser group is run as a separate unit and it is essential that Harrods does its own thing. We are a number one store in the country, it is not in the world, and we must stand out alone rather than conform to a pattern. Whatever we do will be done the Harrods way."

The Harrods way is obvious right—for Harrods I am not naive as to suppose that a store would sacrifice its interests for the greater good of the country, but I am surprised as one sees the spin-off that could result if so many with the power of the Fraser group really started to back industry with the same generosity. If not the same methods, as Lord Woolton in the 30s. The time is ripe, the mood is right—any takers?

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The "Serving" drawer, beneath the oven, which is designed to fit into standard 1,000mm x 600mm kitchen cabinets, is fitted with two even-to-tableware containers which fit into a rack which can also be reversed to accommodate plates. The interior of the drawer measures 455 x 540 x 200mm. The oven has a drop down door and tinted glass viewing

panel with an interior light and the use of micro electronic switches simplifies the automatic control. Instead of the old system of setting two different clocks to start and finish cooking, you simply dial the required finishing time on one digital display and the oven will turn itself on and off at the prescribed time. You can also see a checking time half way through cooking and a buzzer will remind you to see how things are progressing.

The new Cannon Contour D Luxe costs around £402 and can be seen at the moment in larger gas showrooms. It also be shown at the Ideal Home exhibition.

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Above left: matching baby linen printed with bon bon design in yellow, deep pink and blue. Moses basket complete with lining, mattress and cotlin (baby bag), £45. White terry towel with applique bear, £10. Square pillowcase, £9.50. Child's nightdress, age 4 to 5, £15, 10 to 12, £19. All from Descamps. Above right: children's duvet by Christy. Details in column 6. Top right: two tablecloths in a design called Ficelle by Primrose Bordier for Descamps. Top cloth, 160 x 160 cm, £24, bottom cloth, 175 cm diameter, £22. Both come with six napkins in red or green on white and, reversed, in white on red or green.

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Law Report February 27 1981

Harassment of occupiers not absolute offence

Regina v Pheasant
Before Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Cusack and Mr Justice Hoffmann.

The offence of harassment of a residential occupier under section 1(1) of the Protection from Eviction Act, 1977, is not an offence of strict liability. It is an offence of negligence. It is an offence which is committed only if the defendant has acted negligently. It is an offence which is committed only if the defendant has acted negligently.

The defendant threatened to "carve up" Trevillion with a knife, which was hanging out of his pocket. He did not leave the knife, which was hanging out of his pocket. He did not leave the knife, which was hanging out of his pocket.

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Court of Appeal

Shop and flat above it do not make a 'house'

Tandon v Trustees of Spurgeons Homes
Before Lord Justice Ormrod, Lord Justice Watkins and Lord Justice Griffiths.

The court held that it was free to decide, by way of inference from the primary facts found by the judge, whether the premises were a "house".

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University news

Oxford
JOHN'S COLLEGE, Rawlinson and Bosworth, has been awarded a grant of £10,000 for research in the history of the college.

Queen's, Belfast
Dr. Amarjit Singh, BSc (Agric), MSc, PhD (Manc), has been appointed to the chair of Agricultural Science.

Southampton
Professor H. T. Mason, BA (Wales), DPhil (Oxford), has been appointed to the chair of Chemistry.

Warwick
Honorary degrees are to be conferred on the following on July 17: Dr. H. French, BSc, DSc (Hon), has been elected Senior Pro-Chancellor of the University and chairman of its council.



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